2.

TWO LETTERS AND Several Calculations ON THE Sugar Colonies and Trade;

ADDRESSED TO

Two COMMITTEES nominated by the WEST-INDIA Merchants, &c.

With an APPENDIX:

CONTAINING,

1. FOUR LETTERS concerning the *flouriſhing Condition*, *large Extent*, and *prodigious Increaſe of the* FRENCH Sugar Colonies; the *Poverty*, *Weakneſs* and *Decay* of the BRITISH *Sugar Colonies*; and their vaſt *Importance* to the *Trade*, *Navigation*, *Wealth* and *Power* of this NATION.

2. SOME PROPOSALS formerly preſented to a *Great Miniſter of State*, for the *Preſervation* and *Advancement* of the BRITISH *Sugar Colonies*, and *Intereſts* in the *Weſt-Indies*: With an *Addition* of ſeveral *Notes* thereon.

By Mr. BENNETT, late Agent in the *Weſt-Indies*, to the *South-Sea* and *Royal Aſſiento Company* of *Great Britain*; and *to the Society for the Propagation of the Goſpel in Foreign Parts.*

Ut Ærarium Reipubl. recte florere poſſit, neceſſum eſt *ut* Negotia Subditorum *recte promoveantur*. *Werden. Pol. Synop.*

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TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

Sir *ROBERT WALPOLE*,

KNIGHT of the GARTER, *&c.* And

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

Sir *JOHN BARNARD*,

LORD MAYOR *of* London, *&c.*

RIGHT HONOURABLE,

AS I did myſelf the Honour, about two Years ago, to recommend to your Protection a few Sheets * relating to *Trade* and *Colonies*; ſo now, on the like Inducements, and with the greateſt Deference, I ſubmit to your Judgments the following Pages.

* The *National Merchant.*

The Evils which the *Sugar Planters*, your *Fellow Subjects*, have *long and grievouſly labour'd under*, are *certain*, *demonſtrable*, *ſeen* and *felt*: But if you, *Gentlemen*, undertake their Defence, the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies* and Trade cannot fail (their Cauſe is ſo good and ſo clear) *immediately*, and *at once*, to *revive* and *flouriſh*: The Work, *though great*, and *intricated hitherto*, is, however, *very practicable*, and all Men know that your Eloquence and Abilities are more than ſufficient for the Undertaking.

The Meaſures here propoſed for the Relief and Encouragement of theſe Colonies, are principally two.

Firſt, *To ſupply* the Planters *with a Credit on good Security*, *at a moderate Intereſt*.

Secondly, *To put* them on *breaking* up *freſh* Lands, and *enlarging* the *Britiſh Settlements* in the *Weſt-India* Iſlands.

And the *latter*, I preſume, will be a neceſſary Conſequence of the former; eſpecially if the *Britiſh* Planters be put on the like Footing with their Neighbours, as to Foreign Exportation, and a few other Matters ordered, as hinted *here* and *there* in the following Papers.

By purſuing theſe, or the like Meaſures, the Planters would be inſtantly *made eaſy*, the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies* preſerved, and *Great Britain* ſoon *get the better of her Rivals and Competitors in this* Trade: Whereas

all

all other Remedies will be found *palliative* and *ineffectual*, as not ſtriking at the true Source and Cauſes of the Diſtemper; and the Diſeaſe, through tampering, will grow more and more obſtinate and incurable.

But, Right Honourable, as there never was, nor perhaps ever will be, a Matter propoſed for the *Publick Good*, that did not interfere with the *Prepoſſeſſions* or *Intereſts*, *Humours* or *Paſſions*, of particular Men; ſo in this Caſe (and it being in ſome Sort a Work of Reformation, which is often thought dangerous) I do expect more than ordinary Oppoſition *for a while* from ſeveral Quarters.

However, as the Subject I am on is important, and the Honour and Intereſt of the *Britiſh Nation* are at Stake, I aſſure my ſelf of your Indulgence, whilſt I offer a few Words concerning the Nature and Efficacy of the Meaſures here propoſed.

As to *the Rate of Intereſt for Money*: I think, in all our *Sugar Colonies*, Money or Credit for Negroes, *&c.* has been at 10, or (at leaſt) at 8 *per Cent. per Annum*, for many years paſt; which is *much too high a Rate*, and has been attended with more fatal and deſtructive Conſequences, than moſt People can imagine, unleſs they give themſelves leave to conſider, *farther* than we uſually do in Matters wherein *ourſelves* are not *immediately concerned* in Point of *Profit* or *Loſs*.

Not

Not but that Hiſtory is full of the many *Convulſions, Oppreſſions, Seditions* and *Rebellions* which a *too high Rate of Intereſt* frequently brought on the *Grecians*, the *Romans*, and the very *Jews* themſelves; and good Patriots, and wiſe Legiſlators, were frequently honoured and rewarded by theſe *renowned Antients* for deſtroying that *devouring Monſter*, and reforming the Corruptions and Diſorders which it occaſioned among them.

It is recorded, to the immortal Honour of *Solon*, the *Athenian* Legiſlator, That he lower'd the Rate of Intereſt; that he removed the too heavy Incumbrances from their Eſtates; that he brought back from ſtrange Countries, thoſe who were fled from their mercileſs Creditors; that he releaſed ſuch as were in cruel Bondage at home; and that, by theſe Means, he made the *Athenians* FREE, *who, before, had been* SLAVES *to one another in* PECUNIARY CHAINS.

The *Romans*, to remedy and prevent in future, the like, and worſe, *Evils*, ordained by a Law of their *twelve Tables*, that no Man ſhould lend Money but after the Rate of One *per Cent.* called *Fœnus unciarium*: Yet notwithſtanding this, and all Laws and Endeavours afterwards to prevent a *high Intereſt*, it from Time to Time encroach'd upon them, and is thought to have been one of the principal

pal Cauſes of the Deſtruction of that famous Republick. Luxury, Extravagance, Oppreſſion, and bad Oeconomy, were the Parents of Neceſſity, Diſcontent, and *Borrowing, at a Rate impoſſible to be paid.*

Hinc Uſura vorax, avidumque in tempora Fœnus,
Et concuſſa Fides, & multis UTILE BELLUM.

And although the *Jews*, more than all other People under Heaven, one might be apt to think would have kept themſelves free from this national Curſe, being ſo often forbidden, and warn'd againſt it; yet they too have left, for our Inſtruction, a glaring Proof of the Ravages and Havock this Devourer (*a too high Rate of Intereſt*) made among them: The Complaints of thoſe People to their Governor and Countryman, placed over them by *Artaxerxes*, is much to the Purpoſe, and *very moving*. *Vid. Nehemiah*, Chap. V. which I would recommend to be read, eſpecially by *Plantation Governors.*

Such is the pernicious, encroaching, and deſtructive Nature of Uſury, that it has not only been ſeverely condemn'd, by Divines, Hiſtorians, Lawyers, Politicians, Stateſmen and Legiſlators; but the Practice thereof hath, at one Time or another, been forbidden and expelled in moſt Countries,

Countries, as neceſſary and unavoidable, for the Preſervation and Safety of the State. In *England*, by the Common Law, Uſury was altogether unlawful; and in the Reigns of *Edgar*, and *Edward* I, it was abſolutely ſuppreſſed.

Yet it muſt be acknowledged, that the Remedy for this Evil has been ſome times carried too far; ſince in removing and preventing the Inconveniencies and Miſchiefs occaſioned by Uſury, the intrinſick Value, and beneficial Uſe of Money, have been frequently unskilfully leſſen'd to a very injurious and impolitick Degree: So that many, and various, have been the Opinions of Men in all Countries, and in every Age concerning Uſury or Intereſt for Money; it being a Matter of Speculation, of a compound Nature, and much perplexed with a Variety and Viciſſitude of Circumſtances and Accidents.

However, I think even our moſt eminent and unprejudiced Divines, at preſent, agree, " that Uſury, in itſelf conſider'd, " cannot be ſaid to be contrary to Juſtice, " becauſe it is moſt reaſonable, that the " Lender ſhould have, and contract for, a " Part of the Gain and Advantage which " the Borrower may make of his Money, " as well as a Landlord may expect Rent " for his Land; and though the *Moſaical* " Law forbad the *Jews* to take Uſury of " their Brethren, or natural *Jews*, yet they

" were

" were *allowed to lend upon Uſury to a* " *Stranger*, Deut. xxiii. 20. which God " would not have allowed if Uſury had " been *morally Evil in itſelf*. Indeed (ſay " they) Uſury, as well as any other Deal- " ing, is ſubject to Abuſe; which is to " be avoided, either in Reſpect to the " Borrower, who, if Poor and Neceſſi- " tous, may hope for a free Loan from his " Fellow-Chriſtians; or, in reſpect to the " Manner of the Uſury by *exacting*, and " thereby *eating out another's Eſtate*, which " is therefore termed, *biting Uſury*, and " *plainly inconſiſtent* with our *Saviour's* Rule " of *doing unto others as he would they* " *ſhould do unto us*. In other Caſes, Uſury " ſeems not unlawful to Chriſtians, when " no other Circumſtance makes it ſo. As " for the Law againſt Uſury, *Exod.* xxii. " 25, and in other Places of the *Old* " *Teſtament*, it ſeems to be confin'd only " to the Children of *Iſrael* in their own " Country, as that other political Law " concerning Lands, to be releaſed every " ſeventh Year to their former Owner, " *Deut.* xv. 1, 2. and ſuch like judicial " Laws."

After all, then, *here* the arduous and important Queſtion occurs: I have ſaid, Intereſt for Money or Credit in our *Sugar Colonies*, has been many Years paſt *too high*; " *How can we make a true Judgment, Whe-*

" *ther*

" *ther the Rate of Intereſt in any Country be* " TOO HIGH or NOT?"

And having endeavour'd to obtain ſome Satisfaction in this Matter, I conceive, that the Rates of Intereſt for Money may be diſtinguiſhed, thus: 1*ſt*, The Current or Common Rate; 2*d*, The Legal Rate; and, 3*d*, The Political Arithmetick Rate. The Firſt and Second may be *too high*, or *too low*, or (if the Expreſſion be not ſomewhat unuſual) *too light*, or *too heavy*; and the third is the true *Medium*, *Standard*, ot *Ballance*, to meaſure, weigh, and try the others by.

For, Let it be ſuppoſed, that great Numbers of People in a Country, to feed their Luxury and Extravagance, were to create a Demand for as much Money as could be procured at 10 *per Cent*, giving good Security for the Payment; this would raiſe the Current or Common Rate of Intereſt to *that* Height, although it were till then but at 3 or 4 *per Cent*; and would certainly prove prejudicial to the State: Next, let us ſuppoſe a Law made to reduce it *at once* from 10, to 2 *per Cent*, would not this be lowering it too much; and might it not be attended with very ill Conſequences? Thus the Current or Common Rate of Intereſt may be *too high*, and the *Legal too low*, as might be farther enlarged on: And no Doubt but the *Legal Rate* alſo may be *too high*; as in Caſe the Law permitted

Uſurers

Uſurers and Sharpers to extort 40 or 50 *per Cent.* without incurring any Penalty or Puniſhment. But where is an Inſtance of the *Current*, Common, or Natural Rate (call it which we pleaſe) having been *too low?* To which, I can only anſwer, that *This* is a Thing that ſeldom *has happen'd*; and yet it is not altogether impoſſible *to happen:* For if a Nation were to ſet a leſs Value than its Neighbours on Bullion, Gold and Silver, and ſupply all its home Uſes with a vaſt Paper Circulation, thereby reducing the Rate of Intereſt (ſuppoſe) to 1 *per Cent.* would not this leſſen the intrinſick Value of every money'd Man's Eſtate, cauſe all the Gold and Silver to be exported to Foreigners, and, by its Operation, turn the Balance of Trade againſt that Country? — I believe it would. From all which, I conceive, that every Country ought carefully to obſerve a *due Medium* in the Rate of Intereſt for Money; which *Medium*, from time to time, can no otherwiſe be diſcovered than by *Political Arithmetick*; ſince, that which may be a *high* or *low* Rate in *One* Country, may not, *at the ſame time*, be ſo in *Another* Country; or, in the *Same* Country, at *different Times*. And in order to find out ſuch a *Medium*, it may be conſidered;

1*ſt*, What are the Prices of Proviſions and Neceſſaries? What fitting Encouragement for Labourers, Artificers, and Ma-

nufacturers? What the Profits from Agriculture, Trade, Navigation, and all uſeful Improvements? What the Exciſes, Taxes and Contributions to the Publick, &c.

2*dly*, What are the Rates of Intereſt in *other Countries?* That Care may be taken, as much as poſſible, they ſhall not underſell, out-trade, over-navigate, or gain in the Ballance of their reſpective Tranſactions with the Country whoſe Rate of Intereſt we would regulate.

When theſe Things are *known*, *compared*, and *computed*, as near the Truth as may be, *the Rate of Intereſt* ought to be *proportioned* by, and made *ſubſervient* to, *them*: For,

Formerly, when the *Engliſh* Sugar Planters gained 20 *per Cent.* though they gave 15 *per Cent.* Intereſt, they grew *rich*, and the *Colonies* proſpered; but if they now pay 8, or 10 *per Cent.* yet make *not ſo much*, or *no more*, by Planting, they have *nothing* for their Skill, Labour, &c. and conſequently muſt be undone or diſheartned: And if the *French* Planters have Money at 4 or 5 *per Cent.* and *make* 8 or 10 *per Cent.* there is a Reward for their Induſtry; there is Encouragement; and, conſequently, *their Plantations* will *flouriſh*. I make uſe of theſe Inſtances, becauſe they are preſent with me; but muſt obſerve, that the Diſparity between the *Engliſh* and *French* Planters,

Planters, is much ſtronger in Favour of the main Point I contend for; which is, That there is a *Neceſſity, that the* Britiſh *Sugar Planters, at this Juncture, be furniſhed with ſufficient Credit, at an Intereſt proportionate to the Profit which they can make by the Cultivation and Improvement of their Lands.*

And theſe Intimations ſeem to point out, according to Number, Weight and Meaſure, a ſure Way for diſcovering, whether the Rate of Intereſt for Money be *too high*, or *too low*, *in any Country*, and at *any* Time: For although in regulating and governing the Rate of Intereſt, Stateſmen do regard other Circumſtances, as Accidents and Emergencies require, for the Peace and Safety of the Community; yet will not this impeach the Truth of theſe Rules, but may be look'd on, *as an Exception made by Neceſſity*, from which no Maxims, in the Arts, either of Peace or War, ſtand exempt.

In their Beginning (as I have ſaid) the *Britiſh* Sugar Colonies were very profitable to the Planter himſelf, and the Merchant, the Tradeſman, the Nation, and all concerned, grew rich by them; but after the Trade of theſe Colonies became reſtricted and prohibited, in a too general and unskilful Manner, high Duties and Impoſitions laid, their Lands worn, and their Charges increaſed, then followed Poverty

and Diſtreſs; and the Planter was unable longer to pay the large Rate of Intereſt for Money or Credit, which before he could well afford.

Before the Year 1668, (as Sir *Joſiah Child* informs us) Intereſt in the Iſland of *Barbadoes* was at 15 *per Cent*; but that Year a Law paſs'd there, that no Perſon whatſoever, after the 29th of *September* 1668, ſhould directly, or indirectly, take for Loan of any Monies, Sugar, or other Wares or Commodities whatſoever, above the Value of 10 *per Cent.* for the Forbearance of 100 *l.* for a Year, and ſo after that Rate.

Anno 1729, An Act paſſed in the ſame Iſland, reducing the *Legal* Intereſt to 8 *per Cent.* on all future Contracts; but all Debts then owing, to remain at 10 *per Cent.* as before, till paid off.

And in ſome of our *Sugar* Iſlands (I hear) they have attempted to bring it lower, but to no Effect; nor have the Planters been able to procure Money or Credit at 8 *per Cent.* wherewith to diſcharge their old Incumbrances at 10 *per Cent.* So that a Debt has often eaten up, or torn to Pieces, an Eſtate of five or ten times the Value; many Inſtances of which, with very mercileſs aggravating *Circumſtances*, might be produced with the Names of the Sufferers, did I not think it might give Offence to the Relations and Friends of the

the poor Debtors; many of them being fled to other Countries; many broken hearted and dead, and many periſhing by Piece-meal under a cruel Confinement, having no Statute of Bankruptcy, or Law, that provides for their Relief. — And I cannot but beg Leave to obſerve and repeat,

Firſt, That whilſt the *Britiſh* Sugar Planters had freſh and good Lands, a Vent for their Produce, and were not burthen'd with Impoſitions and Taxes, they afforded their Commodities *cheap*, grew *rich*, and yet allowed Intereſt after the Rate of 15 *per Cent.* — The Reaſon of which, in one Word, was plainly this; the Planter then gain'd 20 *l. per Cent.* or more, by the Money which he borrowed and employ'd in Planting.

Secondly, That although in 1668, the Law reduced Intereſt to 10 *l. per Cent.* yet the 10 *per Cent.* proved too high an Intereſt; becauſe the Borrower could not employ it, to ſo good Advantage, as to clear 10 *per Cent.* by the Money he borrowed.

Thirdly, The Law to reduce Intereſt to 8 *per Cent.* in *Barbadoes*, has not lowered it to a due *Medium*, becauſe, as appears by the following Papers, the Planters of late Years do not clear more than 2 or 3 *per Cent.* from their Plantations.

Fourthly, That although 8 *per Cent.* for Money or Credit be double or treble the Profit which the Planter makes from his Eſtate,

Eſtate, yet cannot there be enough of either come at to enable them to diſcharge old Debts and Incumbrances at 10 *per Cent.* ſo that many yet labour under the Burthen of 10 *per Cent.* and *more have been undone by it* ſince the paſſing the Act.

Fifthly, That ſince a Debt of 2 or 3000 *l.* often break to-pieces, and deſtroys an Eſtate worth 15 or 20,000 *l.* conſequently there is a Loſs to the Owner, to other Creditors (if he has any) to his Majeſty's Revenue, and to the Wealth and Stock of the Nation: For if either the Negroes, Cattle, Works, Utenſils, or Land, of all which a Sugar Plantation is compoſed; if either of theſe be ſeparated, and taken away from the other, the remaining Parts will be of no more Uſe than a Watch without a Spring, a Wheel, a Chain, or a Dial, *&c.* — And this Miſchief is what *France* has long been ſenſible of, and provided againſt; but in *England,* there has been *quite a different Way of thinking,* and *quite wrong.*

However, as the *Private Views, Pre-poſſeſſions, Inclinations,* or Manner of *Dependence* of ſome, leads them not only to reproach the *Sugar* Planters of Luxury and Extravagance; but to repreſent them in *England,* as a reſtleſs, diſorderly People, I hope the *Difficulties,* which it is moſt evident *they have groaned under* from a *high Rate of Intereſt,* will be conſider'd in their Behalf;

Behalf; and that *the Blaſt, dry Weather, Mortality of Negroes and Cattle, Hurricanes, firing their Sugar Canes,* and *other Accidents, which often unavoidably bring them in Debt,* will not be forgotten; no more than their *Oppreſſions from Governors, Fees and Extortions of Officers,* and *ſuch as have profited by a corrupt and wicked Adminiſtration of their Laws, in a Time of Neceſſity, Weakneſs and Fear.*

Nor can I quit the remorſeleſs, inſatiable Monſter a *high Rate of Intereſt,* before I deſire it may be remember'd, that *England* itſelf, in former Times, began to feel the like ſad Effects from it; inſomuch, that its *Glory,* long e'er now, might have lain proſtrate in the Duſt, and its Inhabitants been in *the ſame wretched, oppreſſed Condition,* as the *Sugar Planters* at preſent are, if the Wiſdom and Power of its Government, from time to time, had not ſeaſonably interpoſed.

The *Preambles* of ſeveral *Engliſh Acts of Parliament,* authorize and confirm *This,* and carry with them greater Weight than Mr. *Locke,* or any other Writer on the Subject, (ſince *Seeing* and *Feeling,* in the End, will prevail over the fineſt Imagination in Political Matters) — but I need only produce that of 21 *Jac.* I. *Chap.* xvii.

" *Whereas,* at this Time, there is a very " great Abatement in the Value of Land, " and other the Merchandize, Wares, and " Com-

" Commodities of this Kingdom, both *at*
" *home*, and alſo *in foreign Parts*, whither
" they are tranſported: *And whereas* di-
" vers Subjects of this Kingdom, as well
" the Gentry as Merchants, Farmers and
" Tradeſmen, both for their urgent and
" neceſſary Occaſions for the following their
" Trades, Maintenance of their Stocks
" and Employments, have borrowed, and
" do borrow, divers Sums of Money,
" Wares, Merchandize, and other Com-
" modities: But by Reaſon of the ſaid
" general Fall and Abatements of the Va-
" lue of Land, and Prices of the ſaid
" Merchandize, Wares, and Commodities,
" and Intereſt in Loan, continuing at ſo
" high a Rate as ten Pounds in the hun-
" dred Pounds for a Year, doth not only
" make Men unable to pay their Debts,
" and continue the Maintenance of Trade;
" but their Debts daily encreaſing, they
" are enforced to ſell their Lands and Stocks
" at very low Rates, to forſake the Uſe
" of Merchandize and Trade, and to give
" over the Leaſes and Farms, and ſo be-
" come unprofitable Members of the Com-
" monwealth, to the great Hurt and Hin-
" drance of the ſame."

The Subſtance of this *Preamble*, it is thought, was drawn up by old Sir *Thomas Colepeper*, eſteemed a good Patriot, and an honeſt Man, of a clear and ſolid Underſtanding; who was a Member of that Parliament,

Parliament, and had preſented a Tract to it for reducing Intereſt of Money; which has been held in great Repute ever ſince: And with Part of the Concluſion thereof I quit this Point.

" It is agreed, by Uſurers themſelves, " that *biting* Uſury is unlawful: Now, " ſince it hath been proved, that Ten in " the Hundred doth bite the landed Men, " doth bite the Poor, doth bite Trade, " doth bite the King of his Cuſtoms, doth " bite the Fruits of the Land, and moſt " of all, the LAND itſelf, doth bite all " Works of Virtue and Glory to the " State; no Man can deny, but that *Ten* " *in the Hundred* is ABSOLUTELY unlaw- " ful, *&c.*"

Right Honourable,

I am to ask Pardon for having detained you thus long, on the Nature and Malignancy of the firſt and great Evil, propoſed to be remedied for the Sake of the Sugar Colonies—But if the *Sugar* Planters were furniſhed with a ſufficient Credit at 4 *per Cent.*—

It would enable them to pay off their Incumbrances at an high Intereſt, and prevent their running off from the Iſlands, and carrying their Slaves and Effects with them to the *French*, *Dutch*, and *Daniſh* Settlements:

They might clear more from the Sale of their Produce, ſince they are now un-

 der

under Obligations to *conſign* it to ſuch as they are indebted to:

They would no longer be under ſuch preſſing Circumſtances, as to over-work their Negroes, or over-plant their Land, but give both a fitting Reſpite:

They might buy all their Neceſſaries and Materials at the beſt Hand.

This would encourage them to raiſe and improve all Sorts of Commodities natural to the Soil and Climate, *Cheap* and in *Plenty*.

This would make them begin to think their Poſſeſſions worth defending, and of being defended; which few think at preſent.

This would be putting them on a Footing with their Rivals in the ſame Reſpect.

And, This would purify their Blood, give new Spirits, and rectify the whole Maſs of their Oeconomy.

And the *old Planters* being *thus relieved* from this Preſſure, *and encouraged* to take Care of their Poſſeſſions, and in a Way of living with Comfort by their Employments: The next Thing that *Great Britain* ought to do for the Preſervation and Enlargement of her Sugar Colonies and Trade, would be,

1*ſt*. To fortify the ſeveral Iſlands in the *Weſt-Indies*, belonging to *Great Britain*, and to ſettle them with poor white People.

2*dly*.

2*dly*. To grant the *Sugar* Colonies the Liberty of Trade, *to and from all ſuch Ports and Places, and in ſuch Commodities as ſhall not interfere with, but be advantagious to the Manufactures, Trade, and Navigation of* GREAT BRITAIN.

3*dly*. To apply the 4 ½ *per Cent*. (granted by) towards the Support and Defence of *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward Iſlands*, purſuant to an Addreſs of the Houſe of Commons in that behalf, before the UNION of the two Kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland*, and conform to the Account of the Revenue and publick Income of the Kingdom of *England*, printed and publiſhed with *the Articles of Union*, by Virtue of an *Order of the Right Honourable the Houſe of Lords of* January 28. 1706.

4*thly*, To reform the Abuſes that are crept into the *Civil*, *Eccleſiaſtical* and *Military* Affairs of theſe Iſlands; and to order Matters *ſo*, that the Grievances and Complaints of the Inhabitants may be, as much as poſſible, PREVENTED; ſince the Difficulties, Delays, Charges, Expences and Fatigues of Appealing Home, prove oftentimes ruinous to the Perſons in whoſe Favour the Appeal is determined, and whom all Men in their Conſciences know to be aggrieved.

But having ſpoken ſomewhat to theſe and other Matters in the *Letters*, *Calculates*, and *Papers*, to which this Addreſs

is prefixed; tho' I have much more to ſay, I could wiſh, rather, That HIS MAJESTY's Commiſſioners for Promoting the Trade of this Kingdom, *and for Inſpecting and Improving our Plantations in* AMERICA, *and elſewhere*, would be pleaſed, *to thoroughly inform themſelves concerning them from* WEST-INDIA GENTLEMEN, MERCHANTS, *and* PLANTERS *of* JUDGMENT, EXPERIENCE, *and* PRACTICE, who have lived on the Spot, and are known not to have thriven on the Spoils of the Publick, or the Grievances propoſed to be redreſſed: And that their Lordſhips would thereupon draw up, and preſent to his MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY *in Council*, a full and perfect *Scheme* for regulating the diſtreſſed Affairs of the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies*; that the ſame might be made *eaſy* and *ſecure*, and *improved* in ſuch Manner, as would render them moſt *uſeful* and *beneficial to this Kingdom*. Such a *Scheme*, approved by HIS MAJESTY *in Council*, and made valid by PARLIAMENT, would, *at once*, give new Life to our *Weſt-India* Colonies and Trade: and their Circumſtances are ſuch, I am ſure, that nothing leſs will *do*.

Right Honourable,

I hope to be excuſed this laſt Freedom: Since the Hint is perfectly agreeable to the Royal Inſtructions given to the LORDS COMMISSIONERS at the firſt Conſtitution of the *Board of Trade*; ſince it is allowed by all, that

that the Affairs of the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies* have long required ſome more than ordinary Reformation; ſince *France*, of late Years, has taken the like Method from Time to Time, contriving, reſtricting, encouraging, altering and diſpoſing all Matters relating to the Government, Trade, Security, and Enlargement of her *Weſt-India* Settlements in the moſt maſterly Manner; and, ſince, ſhould the Meaſures intended for the Relief of the *Britiſh* Planters be long defer'd, they will be of no more Benefit *to many*, than *Phyſick after Death*.

Gentlemen,

To conclude, I am as ſure as I am of any thing in Life, that all matters here propoſed for the Good of the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies*, might be effectuated with great Eaſe; *inſomuch*, that in two Years Time we would turn the Tables on our Rivals: And, therefore, flatter myſelf that the Papers I now preſent to your Hands, may be favour'd with your Attention; which, if they be (by *Both*, or *Either* of *You*) I will think myſelf happy in having taken ſome Pains *to write what I know to have been a Duty incumbent on me*.

I am, *With all Sorts of Reſpect*,

RIGHT HONOURABLE,

Your moſt devoted, and

Moſt obedient, humble Servant.

JOHN BENNETT.

P. S. There is a very remarkable Paſſage in the judicious Mr. *Mun*, which makes much for the great and firſt Point I am labouring at; and will ſhew what mighty Things ſuch Sort of Encouragements *have done*, and conſequently *may again do*. " I " knew (ſays he) a Prince in *Italy*, of " famous Memory, *Ferdinando* I. Great " Duke of *Tuſcany*, who, being very rich " in Treaſure, endeavoured therewith to " enlarge his Trade, by iſſuing out to his " Merchants great Sums of Money *for* " *very ſmall Profit*: I myſelf had Forty " Thouſand Crowns of him *gratis*, for a " whole Year, although he knew that I " would preſently ſend it away in *Specie* " for the Parts of *Turkey*, to be employ'd " in Wares for his Countries; he being " well aſſured, that in this Courſe of " Trade it would return again (according " to the old Saying) with a Duck in the " Mouth. This Noble and Induſtrious " Prince, by his Care and Diligence to " countenance and favour Merchants in " their Affairs, did ſo increaſe the Prac- " tice thereof, that there is ſcarce a No- " bleman or Gentleman in all his Domi- " nions, that doth not Merchandize, either " by himſelf, or in Partnerſhip with others; " whereby, within theſe Thirty Years, " the Trade to his Port of *Leghorne* is ſo " much increaſed, that of a poor little

" Town

" Town (as I myſelf knew it) it is now " become a fair and ſtrong City, being " one of the moſt famous Places for Trade " in all Chriſtendom."—A good Pattern for all Princes and States to copy after: but we may alſo remember the Act paſs'd in Queen *Anne*'s Reign, for the Relief of the Sufferers of *Nevis* and St. *Chriſtophers*; and then ſurely it will not remain a Queſtion, Whether *Great Britain* ought to furniſh her *Sugar* Planters with a ſufficient Credit at 4 *per Cent.* on their giving Security for double the Value, in Lands, Negroes, *&c.*—AND, *thus, theſe Colonies might be preſerved, and* Great Britain *profit by the Meaſures that would preſerve them: Hereafter Millions may be expended, but the* SUGAR COLONIES irrecoverably loſt!

THE

THE

PREFACE

TO THE

West-India Gentlemen, Merchants and Planters.

THESE *Papers were wrote on ſeveral Occaſions, to ſhew the Value and Importance of the* Britiſh Sugar Colonies; *the* Difficulties *they lie under, the* Dangers *to which they are expoſed, and the* Meaſures *proper to encourage and preſerve them. They are now made publick; and, if you pleaſe to correct the Errors, ſupply the Defects, and improve ſuch Things as you ſhall find capable of Improvement, I hope they may be of ſome Service. Being wrote at different Times, you will find ſome Matters repeated; but ſuch, perhaps, as will bear* repeating.

There is one general Principle diffuſed through theſe Writings, and it is this, I have not (as I think) propoſed one ſingle Advantage *for the* Britiſh Sugar Colonies, *that will be* a Detriment to GREAT BRITAIN, or any the Dominions or Territories belonging to the Crown; *I have* conſidered them as Members of the ſame Body, *and* aim *at making them uſeful to the* WHOLE: *And this is the* Rule; *this is the Teſt, by which I deſire, all that I have offer'd, or all that I ever ſhall offer, may* Stand *or* Fall.

It now only remains, Gentlemen, *that I put you in Mind of a few Things, very proper, in my Opinion, to be obſerved at this important Juncture.*

1ſt. *That you do not rely,* not only on improper, *but alſo,* not on inſufficient Remedies: *as* a direct Exportation to foreign Ports from our Colonies; Bounties, *or* Drawbacks; Preventing the Importation of foreign Sugar, Rum, Melaſſes, *&c.* into any, or all his Majeſty's Dominions: Theſe all *will be far from effectually relieving the Neceſſities of our Sugar Colonies*; *and* Great Britain *may* better *and* eaſier *grant you thoſe Things that will Anſwer all your Purpoſes at* once, *than always be* mending, patching, *and* botching.

2dly, *That you do not deceive yourſelves with an old, wrong Notion, That the leſs Sugar is made, and the fewer Planters there be*

be in the Britiſh *Sugar Colonies, the more it will be to your Advantage; for this has been a fatal and wretched Error; and where muſt it end at laſt? If the* Britiſh *Plantations cannot, or will not, afford Sugars,* &c. Plenty *and* Cheap *enough, the* French, Dutch, *and* Portugueſe *do, and will. We have already well nigh loſt our Re-exportation, and the poor* White *People, through Diſcouragements, have deſerted our Iſlands; nor can it be thought that* Great Britain *herſelf,* Ireland, *and the* Northern Colonies, *will always contentedly give* higher *Prices for Sugar, Rum,* &c. *to our own Planters, than thoſe Commodities may be purchaſed for, from other Nations. In* England *there may be good Mines of Gold and Silver, for what I know; yet if the* Working *them ſhould make the Gold or Silver come dearer to the Owners, than they could purchaſe or procure the ſame at from* Spain, Portugal, *or elſewhere, no one can think theſe Mines would be long wrought, after full Proof and Experiment. Perhaps this is exactly the very Caſe in* England, *with reſpect to Gold and Silver; and pray, how does the Buſineſs of* Sugar-making *in the* Britiſh *Colonies differ from it? And,*

3dly, *That* You yourſelves *do repreſent to* His Majeſty's Board of Trade, *to* His Majeſty's Miniſters, *to* His Majeſty Himſelf, *and to the* Britiſh Parliament, *the* real, true State *and* Condition *of* your Affairs *without Partiality, Concealment, or Diſguiſe:— And not leave it to other People.* *And*

And if theſe Things were obſerved, with a dutiful and affectionate Regard to his Majeſty's moſt ſacred Perſon and Government, ſuch (*in my Opinion*) *is, the Nature of your Caſe, and* ſuch *the Diſpoſition, Wiſdom and Goodneſs of the* Britiſh Adminiſtration *and* Legiſlature, *that you will not fail of Succeſs. I heartily wiſh it*; *And am,*

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient, and

Moſt humble Servant,

March 17. 173⅞.

J. B.

P. S. Should the *Britiſh* Sugar Colonies be regulated in ſome ſuch manner, as hinted in theſe Papers; Planting would beget more Trade, more Navigation, more Money, more Employments, and conſequently provide for all ſorts of People. And as Trade begets Trade, and Money, Money; ſo beſides, the Strength and Security it would add to your preſent Poſſeſſions, you would have the like or better Opportunities of making Advantages, than moſt others.

THE

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2. Some Propoſals *formerly preſented to a great Miniſter of State for the* Preſervation *and* Advancement *of the* Britiſh Sugar Colonies *and* Intereſts *in the* Weſt-Indies, *with an Addition of ſeveral Notes thereon.* p.58

Adver-

ADVERTISEMENT TO THE READER.

BEcauſe *theſe Pieces* were wrote at different Times, and often depend upon and illuſtrate each other, the Reader is deſired to peruſe and compare them together, and likewiſe, to obſerve the Notes refer'd to, as he goes along.

ERRATA.

PAge 1. *Line.* 8. *read* ſettling; p. 3. *l.* 3. for and II. *r.* III and IV. p. 5. *l.* 34. for III and IV. *r.* I and II. p. 11. *l.* 18. for deſigned, *r.* aſſigned. p. 44. *l.* 19. for North End, *r.* North Weſt Part. p. 59. *l.* 11. *r.* Matters.

A LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE of GENTLEMEN NOMINATED

By the *Weſt-India* Merchants, to conſider of the *Offers* of *France* for *ſettleing* the *Differences*, and *regulating* the *Navigation* and *Commerce*, between the Subjects of *Great Britain* and *France*, in *America*.

GENTLEMEN,

I Take the Liberty to addreſs a few Particulars to your Conſideration, concerning the *Sugar Colonies* and *Trade*, which I chuſe to do by way of *Remarks* on Part of a *Memorial* from the *Deputies* of the *French* Commerce, to their *Royal Council*, drawn up in the Year 1701, not doubting, if any thing material be hinted, that has not hitherto happen'd to fall within your Obſervation, but it will meet with a very favourable Reception at your Hands.

The *French* Deputies of Commerce, in their ſaid *Memorial* (preſented to the *Royal Council* concerning the *then* preſent State of their *Sugar Iſlands* in *America*, and the Trade thereof, and the *Means* of *preſerving* and *extending* it in THOSE PARTS) begin thus, and ſay, " *Le Commerce de, &c.* The " Commerce of *Guinea*, &c. —— But here follow the *Memorial*, and my *Remarks* thereon, Article by Article.

The FRENCH *MEMORIAL.*

" The Commerce of *Guinea* has ſuch Relation " to that of the *French* Iſlands in the *Weſt Indies*, " that the *one* cannot ſubſiſt without the *other*."

My REMARKS.

This Obſervation of the Deputies of the *French* Commerce, " That their *Guinea* Trade could not " ſubſiſt without their *Sugar Colonies*, nor their " *Sugar Colonies* without their *Guinea* Trade," was, in the main, true enough ; but we ought to reflect, that the *French Sugar Colonies* have been well peopled with *Whites*, and ſtock'd with great Numbers of *Negroes*, ſince the Year 1701, and that, in Proceſs of Time, there will not be the ſame Demand for *Blacks* in the *Sugar Planting* as at the Beginning: So the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies* are the *Primum Mobile* and grand *Source* of the *African*, *Madeira*, *Iriſh*, and *Northern* Colony Trades; and, if ever thoſe Iſlands be loſt, or abandoned, by the Inhabitants, there will, of courſe, be ſo far an End to theſe Trades.—Will the *Britiſh* Nation then think it neceſſary to give 10,000 *l.* every Year towards the Support of the *Guinea* Trade, and yet not *do ſomething more effectually than has hitherto been done, for the Preſervation of her* SUGAR COLONIES

Colonies, ſo much beyond all Compariſon, the moſt important? [See the Appendix, Letters III and IV.] To expend 10,000 *l. per Annum* on the Repairs of a Houſe, yet ſuffer its Foundation, at the ſame Time, viſibly to moulder into Duſt, threat'ning its Inhabitants, Workmen, and all, with certain Deſtruction——What can be more abſurd! Let *Great Britain* encourage her *Sugar Colonies*, and her *Sugar Colonies* will more effectually revive, ſupport, and encourage her *African Trade*, than all the *Aids* and *Encouragements* that *hitherto have*, or, perhaps, that *hereafter ever can be*, given by the *Britiſh* Legiſlature. Not that my Opinion is againſt the aforeſaid annual Grant of 10,000 *l.* for enabling the *African* Company to keep up and maintain their Forts and Settlements: Far from it; I would have every thing attempted that might give new life and vigour to the *African* Trade; but I ſay, nothing can do it ſo *effectually*, as reſtoring our *Sugar Colonies* to a *flouriſhing State*. This would be *beginning at the right End*.

MEMORIAL.

" By thoſe Trades (the *Guinea* and the *Sugar* " *Iſlands*) we have deprived our Competitors in " Traffick of the great Profit which they drew " from us, and may put ourſelves into a Condi- " tion, by their Example, to draw Profit, in our " Turn, from them, *eſpecially from the* English.

REMARKS.

What! And is it come to this? The *French* draw Profit, *eſpecially from the* English, their Inſtructors and Maſters in Trade! How? By ſupplying *Great Britain*, as they *lately* were permitted

to furniſh *Ireland* and the *Northern Colonies*, with Sugar, Rum, and other *Weſt-India* Commodities, inſtead of being furniſhed themſelves from us, as heretofore! Yes, *Gentlemen!* ——But, for ſhame, and in the Names of Prudence and common Diſcretion, let a Stop be put to this Career: For it remains *yet* in our Power, if an unaccountable Selfiſhneſs in a *few*, and a general Infatuation, are not eternally to poſſeſs us, to put this valuable Trade on as good a Footing as ever.

MEMORIAL.

" We may increaſe thoſe Trades conſiderably, " ſeeing that Nation (the *Engliſh*) in their Iſlands, " with leſs Advantage than we, in Territories of " leſs Extent, and in much leſs Time, have found " Means to employ yearly above 500 Ships, " while we do not, without great Difficulty, em- " ploy 100.

REMARKS.

No doubt the *French* have a larger Extent of Territory in the *Weſt-Indies* by much, and better ſituated, either for Offence or Defence, than ours, eſpecially if all they claim on the *Terra Firma* of *Cayenne*, *Hiſpaniola*, and among the *Caribbees*, be confirmed to them; and therefore it concerns us, (and the *Spaniards* too) that Care be taken that they (the *French*) make no new Acquiſitions, either by the Pen, the Sword, or clandeſtine Settlements (*which laſt has been pretty often the Caſe*) nor that their preſent Poſſeſſions, where the Right is queſtionable, be yielded up, or countenanced in the leaſt, by any future Negotiation or Tranſaction.

And,

And, as the *French* bend their utmoſt Endeavours to encourage and extend their *Sugar* Settlements, and as they never had more, and we never fewer, white People on *thoſe Iſlands*, ſince they were firſt inhabited to any conſiderable Degree, ſurely *Great Britain* muſt ſee, that, except *new Meaſures be taken*, and ſome *Reform made*, the *Engliſh*, and their Slaves, cannot be without continual Apprehenſions of being ſwallowed up by their *overpowerful* Neighbours.

Our Ships of War, indeed, may interrupt their Trade, and do them ſome Damage for a Time; but they are now too well ſettled, and ſtrongly fortified, to ſtand in Awe of ſuch a temporary Inſult; nor may *our Ships of War* be always in a Readineſs to protect our Settlements and Trade againſt Hoſtilities and Depredations: For it is certain, that the *French* have ſeen Things at a Diſtance, form'd judicious Schemes, waited the good Succeſs thereof with Patience (every one expecting his own particular Advantage, no otherwiſe than in and from the publick Proſperity) and *accordingly* are reaping the Fruits of ſo generous, ſo wiſe, ſo honeſt, and ſo laudable a Conduct.

In the Year 1701, it ſeems, we employed five Ships to their one; but it would be no hard matter to demonſtrate, that their *Sugar Colonies* produce *more* Commodities at preſent, both in Quantity and Value, than ours; and from our beſt Intelligence, it appears, the *French* have, belonging to their *Sugar Iſlands*, imployed up and down in the *Weſt-Indies*, more than five Veſſels to every one belonging to the *Britiſh Sugar Iſlands*. See the Appendix, Letters III and IV.

However, notwithſtanding what the *Deputies of the* French *Commerce* did advance in this Article, I think the *Engliſh* have all along had ſome Advantages which the *French* have not; but then I wiſh

wiſh I could think too, that we had made as good uſe of them. To inſtance ſome of theſe Advantages juſt as they occur; We have more Shipping at Command, and poor People enow; our *Guinea* Trade longer eſtabliſhed, and Slaves cheaper; our *Northern Colonies* for Supplies of Proviſions, Lumber, Horſes, and Conſumption of Rum, *&c.* *Ireland* for Beef, *&c.* Freight cheaper; *Great Britain* always Miſtreſs of the Sea, well ſtock'd with Utenſils, Manufactures, *&c.* and her Merchants and Subjects able Men, and capable of going thro' any Undertaking they ſet upon in earneſt.

MEMORIAL.

" Every body is ſenſible of *the Benefit of Navi-*
" *gation*, and that the *Happineſs* and *Glory* of a
" State *very much depend upon it:* There can be
" no Commerce without it; it governs the For-
" tune of the Merchants; it maintains a great
" Number of Subjects, Seamen, and Mechanicks.
" No one is ignorant that, THE NAVIGATION
" OF *FRANCE* OWES ALL ITS INCREASE
" AND SPLENDOR TO THE COMMERCE OF ITS
" SUGAR ISLANDS, AND THAT IT CANNOT
" BE KEPT UP AND ENLARGED OTHERWISE
" THAN BY THIS COMMERCE. 'TIS BEYOND
" ALL DOUBT, THAT THIS COMMERCE IS MORE
" BENEFICIAL TO THE STATE, THAN ALL
" OTHERS (OF LONG VOYAGES) THAT ARE
" DRIVEN BY THE FRENCH; becauſe 'tis carried
" on without exporting any Money, and without
" the Help of any foreign Goods or Manufactures;
" ſo that none but the Subjects of the *King* and
" *Kingdom* have the Profit of it.

REMARKS.

This Article ſpeaks aloud of itſelf; and, without needing many Obſervations, will certainly lead us to a very juſt Concluſion, equally as *ſeaſonable* as *important*. For, do the *Happineſs* and *Glory of a State depend on its Navigation?* Does the *Navigation of* FRANCE *owe all its Increaſe and Splendor to the Commerce of its* SUGAR ISLANDS? *Cannot its Navigation be otherwiſe kept up and preſerved than by this Commerce?* And, *Is it beyond Doubt, that this Commerce is* MORE BENEFICIAL TO FRANCE THAN ALL OTHERS? —— If theſe Things are truly affirmed (AS SURELY THEY ARE, Vide Appendix, Letters I. and II.) will *Great Britain* ſpare one Moment longer Whip, Spur, or Aid, *to ſave her Honour and Diſtance in this* RACE, wherein, at firſt ſetting out, ſhe had *ſo very much gotten the Start and Advantage?*

Gentlemen, I here end my Remarks on the *Memorial* of the *French Deputies of Commerce*, it being unneceſſary to add more to *excite our Vigilance and Emulation*, if *Great Britain* ever intends to retrieve and ſecure her Power and Trade in the *Weſt-Indies*: And I may venture to affirm, "That, if *Great* "*Britain* does not ſpeedily regulate her *Sugar Col-* "*onies* and Trade, but ſits down quiet, and ſuf- "fers Things to run on *in their own wild out-of-* "*the-way Courſe*;" I ſay, I may venture to affirm, "That, let what *Treaty* ſoever be made "between *Great Britain* and *France* for *accommo-* "*dating* of *Differences*, and *regulating* the *Trade* "and *Navigation* of the *Weſt-Indies*, tho' it may, "it is true, be of uſe to *them*, yet, from the very "Nature of Things, it cannot be of Benefit to "*us*; except (I ſay again) we put our *Sugar Trade*

"into

" into *another Channel*, and under a *better Oecono-*
" *my than it has been for many Years paſt.*"

For you know, *Gentlemen*, that a Colony may be highly beneficial to its Mother-Country, as for its own Productions, ſo alſo for its Situation for Trade with other Countries: *Surinam* is now valuable to the *Dutch* for its *Sugar*, *&c*; and the Iſlands of *Curaſſoa* and *Statia*, for a Trade with the *Spaniards*, the *French*, the *Engliſh*, *&c*; and *Jamaica* has been a *Mine* of Gold to *Great Britain* on *both Accounts*.

Now, if a *Colony* may be beneficial to itſelf and to its Mother-Country, as well by an *Intercourſe of Trade with Foreigners*, as by its own Productions, ought ſuch Intercourſe to be prohibitted, or diſcouraged? No, certainly!

It is granted, at the ſame Time, however, that where an Intercourſe with Foreigners ſhall be found *prejudicial* to the *Trade* and *Navigation* of the *Mother-Country*, ſuch Intercourſe ought, *ſo far forth*, to be reſtricted; *but no farther*.

There are few general Rules without Exception, and the Prohibition of foreign Trade *too indiſcriminately* to and from our *Sugar Colonies*, as our Laws of Trade and Navigation have done, has been *doing too much*, in my Opinion: For, next to enabling our *own* Colonies to *produce a Plenty of all Sorts of Commodities themſelves*, *and giving them a large Vent for them*; *the wiſeſt and beſt Thing we can do*, *is to encourage a Trade with the Colonies belonging to other Nations their Neighbours*; by which Means we would (as long as not hindered) preſerve our Navigation, and gain by Trade.

This therefore, Gentlemen, ſeems to be our preſent Caſe:

If we ſuffer our own *Sugar Colonies* to continue under the many great *Hardſhips* and *Diſadvantages*, which they have long groaned under, we ſhall not be

be able to produce *Sugars* ſufficient for *Foreign Markets*, or our *Home Conſumptions*, or even to retain our Poſſeſſions in the *Weſt-Indies*: And if we refuſe to take *Sugars*, *Cotton*, *Indigo*, *Coffee*, *Cocoa*, *&c.* of the *French* or *Spaniards* in *America*, the *Dutch* and *Danes will not*; their Ports are *open* and *free*; we loſe the Profits and Advantages of the Navigation, and perhaps may, at laſt, have Occaſion to buy the ſame Goods in *Europe*, at a *much dearer Rate*, *from our Rivals*, than we might have had them for at firſt Hand in *America*.

I might add much more; but theſe Matters, for the preſent, are ſubmitted to your more mature Conſultations, by,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient humble Servant,

J. B.

A LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED

By the Gentlemen, Merchants, *and others, to conſider of the* Sugar *Trade, and apply to his* Majeſty's *Miniſters and the* Parliament *with Propoſals for their Relief and Encouragement.*

GENTLEMEN,

THAT our *Sugar-Colonies* have been very beneficial to this Nation; that they are at preſent in a *low* and *declining* State; and that our Rivals are *flouriſhing*, and have in great meaſure beaten us out of this Trade at foreign Markets, are Points long ſince and often proved, and which you, *Gentlemen*, know to be perfectly true, nor will any honeſt, intelligent Perſon deny them.

But

But what have been the *real Cauſes* of the *Declenſion* of our *Sugar Colonies*, and what would be the *adequate Means* for *retrieving* theſe *Iſlands* from their *Grievances* and *Diſtreſs*, *theſe* are *Points*, which, in my Opinion, have not hitherto been *ſo well underſtood*, at leaſt, not ſo *publickly* and *clearly explain'd*, as their deplorable Circumſtances ſeem to require.

It is this Conſideration, *Gentlemen*, that has induced me to ſubmit to your Judgments, ſome *Calculates* and *Obſervations*, which, I think, plainly demonſtrate the *grand Cauſe* of the *Decay* and *Poverty* of our *Sugar Plantations*; and alſo the *ſolid Meaſures* that ſhould be taken to *preſerve* and *enlarge* them, by putting us on an equal footing with our Rivals.

I have ſaid, *grand Cauſe*, *Gentlemen*, to diſtinguiſh it from many other which are deſigned: For, indeed, the *high Rate of Intereſt* may rightly be ſtiled the *Cauſe* of all the *Cauſes* of the *Decay* of the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies*; and *lowering* the *Rate of Intereſt* is the very firſt *Remedy Great-Britain* ought to apply; ſince this will infallibly afford immediate *Relief*, and give new *Life* to the *deſponding* Planters; their Productions will be thereby ſoon increaſed; our Exportations enlarged; and, if thereupon we reſolve to get the better of our Competitors at foreign Markets, *Great-Britain* muſt *then encourage* her Subjects with all ſuch Advantages of *Re-exportation* and *direct Importation* to *foreign Ports*, *as the Subjects the moſt favour'd by any Prince or State now have, or hereafter ſhall enjoy*. And thus would *Great-Britain* ſoon recover her Strength in the *Weſt-Indies*, and beat all Nations of the World in the *Sugar* Trade; for, in other Reſpects, her Subjects, her Shipping, and many ſingular Advantages in this Trade, take them all together, are not to be match'd.

As to the ſeveral Papers herewith offer'd to your Conſideration, their Titles are,

1. (1 A.) *Calculate* of the *real intrinſick Value* of the *Land* and *Stock* of *Barbadoes* at this Time, *Anno* 1730.

2. (2 A.) *Calculate*, by another Hand, of the *preſent Value of Barbadoes*, conſidered as a *Sugar Colony*, drawn as near the Truth as poſſible, and far from any Exaggeration, *Anno* 1731.

3. (B.) A *Calculation* of the yearly *Produce* and *Expence* of *Barbadoes*.

4. (C.) *Barbadoes*, its general *Annual Account Current*.

5. (D.) *Calculate* of the *yearly Produce* and *Expence* of a great *Barbadoes Sugar* Planter.

6. (E.) *Calculate* of the *yearly Produce* and *Expence* of a great *French Sugar* Planter, on *rich* and *freſh* Lands.

7. (F.) *Obſervations* and *Remarks* on the ſeveral foregoing *Calculates*, ſhewing, That the *Ways* and *Means*, for *Great-Britain* to retrieve her *Weſt-India* Colonies and *Sugar* Trade, are, for her to *extend* and *enlarge* them *both*, and (thereby) to afford all the Productions of that Climate, as CHEAP and PLENTIFULLY as other Nations: And that, in the firſt Place, it is abſolutely neceſſary to reduce the *high Rate* of *Intereſt* in the *Sugar Colonies*, in order to enable the preſent Poſſeſſors to hold their Eſtates, and prevent thoſe Iſlands from being yet more and more diſpeopled.

From the firſt and ſecond of theſe *Calculates* (mark'd 1 A and 2 A) it appears, that, in and about the Year 1731, the Land and Stock of *Barbadoes*, according to juſt and moderate Eſtimation, were really worth 5,000,000 *l.*

FROM the third (mark'd B) it appears, that the *Ballance* gain'd from the ſaid *Land* and *Stock* of

of *Barbadoes*, by the Proprietors, was then Annually 100,000 *l.*

By the fourth Paper (mark'd C) it is ſhewn, that the yearly Intereſt of Money on the real Value of the Land and Stock of *Barbadoes*, at 8 *per Cent.* coming to 400,000 *l.* it over-ballances the net Profits of its whole annual Produce no leſs than 300,000 *l. per Annum.* Thus, conſequently, this *high Rate of Intereſt*, or *Premium*, for Credit, which is the loweſt there, has been *deſtructive* of the *Iſland* of *Barbadoes* in general, and *ruinous* to every *Landholder*, or *Sugar* Planter (more or leſs) in Proportion.

By the fifth Paper (mark'd D.) it appears, that a great Planter in *Barbadoes*, whoſe Land and Stock, at that Time, were worth 50,000 *l.* clear'd net but 1,000 *l. per Annum* (*communibus Annis*) unleſs he *clay'd* and *improved* his Sugar, and then he might clear 350 *l.* more *by ſuch manufacturing*: which, in the firſt Caſe, is after the Rate of 2 *l. per Cent. per Annum*, on the Value of his Land and Stock; and, in the laſt Caſe, after the Rate of 2 *l.* 14 *s. per Cent. per Annum.*

By the ſixth *Calculate* (mark'd E) it appears, that a *French* Planter, on *freſh* and *rich* Land, clears after the Rate of 18 *l.* 5 *s.* 10 *d.* ½ *per Cent. per Annum*, altho' he vend his *Sugar* at 8 *s. per* Hundred; *Rum* at 8 *d. per* Gallon; and *Melaſſes* at 4 *d. per* Gallon: which is 8 *s. per* Hundred cheaper than the *Britiſh* Planters do ſell, or can afford, to make their *Sugar*, 7 *d. per* Gallon cheaper than Rum, and 5 *d. per* Gallon cheaper than Melaſſes.

In Sum, it appears from theſe ſeveral *Computations*, that a *Britiſh Sugar* Planter is *over-power'd* and *borne down* by *Intereſt of Money*, or *Uſury*, *biting and intolerable Uſury*, 6 *per Cent. per Ann. more than his annual Produce yields him to pay or diſcharge*;

diſcharge; and that the *French* Planter, although affording his Goods at half the Price, yet gains from his Eſtate 18 *l. per Cent. per Ann. on the firſt Coſt* or *Purchaſe Money*.

And if this be the Caſe, as I think it is, where is he, who wonders at the *Proſperity* of the *French*, or the *Fall* of the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies?* Whereever he be, let him talk no more of Luxury, Extravagance and Profuſion—*but honeſtly aſſign the true Cauſe*.

But, for further Satisfaction, be pleaſed, *Gentlemen*, to refer yourſelves to the *Calculates* themſelves, and the *Paper* of *Obſervations* and *Remarks* which follows after: And, if the Matters contained in theſe Papers, are true, or pretty near the Truth, the Concluſions deducible from them, give me leave to ſay, may prove the beſt and ſureſt Guides towards aſſiſting the *Britiſh Legiſlative* and *Miniſterial* Powers in their Conſultations and Proceedings on the *Sugar Colonies* and Trade.

For, as a *Gentleman* in the like Way of thinking that I am in, whoſe Knowledge, Experience and Writings gained him Reputation, many Years paſt, very juſtly obſerved, "A great Stateſman, "by conſulting all Sort of Men, and by con-"templating the univerſal Poſture of the Nation, "its Power, Strength, Trade, Wealth and Re-"venues, in any Council he is to offer; by ſum-"ming up the Difficulties on either Side; and by "computing upon the whole, ſhall be able to "form a *ſound Judgment*, and to *give a right* "*Advice:* And this (ſays he) is what we mean "by *political Arithmetick*." [I beg leave to continue his Words.]

"This computing Faculty may not only be "uſeful to Stateſmen in the general and higher "Affairs; but it will likewiſe help them in the "more ſubordinate and miniſterial Parts of Government.

" vernment. It ſhall not *only contribute* to their " *well-guiding* and *conducting* the Nation's whole " Strength and Wealth truſted to their Care; " but, if they rightly know how *to reaſon upon* " *Things*, *by Figures*, they ſhall commit very few " Errors in relation to their Prince's Revenues, or " to the *Trade of the Kingdom.*

" The Faculty of computing (adds he) is not " *leſs uſeful* in *Matters relating to Trade*, than in " what concerns the *publick Revenues.*

" The Councils of a Country are always in- " quiſitive after Truth; *but to hide it from them*, " *and to perplex Things which have Relation to* " *Trade*, *is the* INTEREST OF SO MANY, that in " the greateſt Deliberations, *wiſe Men are often* " *miſled*, by ſuch, as in their Actings, conſult " more *their private Profit*, than the *common* " *Welfare.*

" There is hardly a Society of Merchants that " would not have it thought the whole Proſperity " of the Kingdom depends upon their ſingle Traf- " fick: So that, at any time when they come to " be conſulted, their *Anſwers* are *dark and partial*; " and when they deliberate in Aſſemblies, 'tis " generally with a *Byaſs*, and a *ſecret Eye* to *their* " *own Advantage.* There is hardly a Commerce " but the Dealers in it will affirm, *we loſe by* " *all the reſt.*" [Then this Gentleman concludes thus.]

" He that would, therefore, compute with " any good Effect in *Matters relating to Trade*, " muſt contemplate the *Wealth*, *Stock*, *Product*, " *Conſumption*, *Shipping*, *Exportations* and *Impor-* " *tations* of his *Country*; and, AT THE SAME " TIME, *he muſt conſider the State and Condition* " *of other Places.*

" In

" In this Art, the moſt difficult Point is, to " find *good Materials*, and to have a *Footing*, *pro-* " *bably ſure*, *to fix our Reaſonings upon* ; for, *where* " *our Premiſes can be certain*, *our Concluſions ſhall* " *be almoſt undeniable.*" See *Diſcourſes on the Revenues and Trade of* England *in* 1698.

Gentlemen, in order *to remove the Difficulties juſt now hinted*, and that *our Legiſlators* and *Stateſmen may be furniſhed with Matters of Fact ſufficient to ground their Reſolutions upon with ſome ſort of Certainty*, theſe *Papers* are ſubmitted to you for Correction or Improvement; becauſe, I am perſuaded, in either Caſe, you will not fail to produce ſome good Effect, towards promoting the great Deſign you are engaged in, *viz.* The *Preſervation* and *Encouragement* of the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies* and *Trade.*

I remain,

With much Reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient,

Humble Servant,

J. B.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

GENTLEMEN,

SInce I wrote the foregoing Letter, I have thought it might be of more Uſe to add ſome Papers by way of *Appendix*, than to inſert the Paper 7, mark'd F, intitled, *Obſervations* and *Remarks*, *&c.* Becauſe I would not too much anticipate your Thoughts; becauſe, I believe, theſe other Papers will be more acceptable to you; becauſe I find the Concluſions I have drawn from the *Facts* and *Figures* in the Calculates, muſt be granted by all impartial Perſons, tho' there ſhould be found ſome Defects or Exceſſes in them, which, however, I am not conſcious of. In ſhort, all that I contend for is, that *Intereſt for Credit* may not devour the *Britiſh* Planters; that they may be put in a Way of making their Commodities as *Plenty* and *Cheap* as other Nations; and (then) that they may be allowed as free (or freer) a Vent for them, as the Subjects of any other Nation: And, altho' it ſhould claſh for *a while* with the ſuperficial *Intereſt* of *Great-Britain*; yet, that they may be treated as *good Slaves*, *when Sick*, by the moſt *rigid Maſter*, *viz.* allowed a little Reſpite from their hard Labour, a few reviving Cordials, and ſomewhat a better and nicer Diet than ordinary, till they gather Health and Strength: *For then they will make an ample Compenſation, and return an Hundred-fold to their Mother Country.*

(1 A)

CALCULATE *of the real intrinsick Value of the* Land *and* Stock *of* Barbadoes, *at this Time*, Anno 1730.

	l.
Land 80,000 Acres, manurable, in *Barbadoes*, worth, at an Average, 20 *l. per* Acre.	1,600,000
Negroes 70,000, Men, Women, and Children, worth, one with another, 22 *l.* each.	1,540,000
Stock, Sugar-Buildings, and Implements to employ the White and Black Inhabitants, to the Value of	1,860,000
Total. —— —— —— ——	5,000,000

(2 A)

CALCULATE, *by another Hand, of the preſent Value of* Barbadoes, *conſidered as a Sugar Colony, drawn as near the Truth as poſſible, and far from any Exaggeration,* Anno 1731.

	l.
500 Wind-Mills, at 800 *l.* each	400,000
Boiling Houſes, Still Houſes, Negro Houſes, Traſh Houſes, Smiths, Coopers and Carpenters Shops, *&c.* 1,200 *l.* for each Wind-Mill Eſtate	600,000
Carts, Pots, Drips, and other Utenſils, at 150 *l.* for each Wind-Mill Eſtate	75,000
106,000 Acres of Land, with the Crops now growing thereon, at 20 *l. per* Acre —— —— ——	2,120,000
65,000 Negroes, at 30 *l. per* Head	1,950,000
20,000 Head of Cattle, at 10 *l.*	200,000
6,000 Horſes, at 20 *l. per* Head	120,000
26 Pot Kilns, 80 Cattle Mills and Works	35,000
L.	5,500,000

N. B. In this *Calculate*, all the four Towns of the Iſland, and all Dwelling Houſes, *&c.* are left out; and nothing more is brought to Account, but what merely relates to the Sugar Trade.

(B.)

A CALCULATION *of the yearly* Produce *and* Expence *of the whole Iſland of* Barbadoes.

Yearly Produce.	*l.*
Sugar 25,000 Hogſheads, as the Trade now ſtands—— ——	320,000
Rum and Melaſſes 15,000 Hogſheads, as the Trade now ſtands.	80,000
Ginger, Cotton and Aloes ——	20,000
Total cleared on the Sale. — *L.*	420,000

Yearly Expence.	*l.*
Negroes 2,800 from *Africa* ——	80,000
Wine from *Medeira* —— ——	30,000
Refuge, Fiſh, not fit for any *European* Market.	20,000
Lumber, Boards, Staves, *&c.* ——	40,000
Horſes, *&c.* —— —— —	15,000
Flour, Bread, Corn. —— ——	10,000
Beef, Pork, Herrings, *&c.* ——	25,000
Linen, Woollen, Iron, Copper.——	100,000
L.	320,000
Ballance gained from the *Land* and *Stock* of *Barbadoes* by the Inhabitants annually.	100,000
	420,000

(C.)

(C)

Barbadoes, *its* general Annual Accompt Current.

DEBTOR.	*l.*	*CREDITOR.*	*l.*
To the *Intereſt* of 5,000,000 *l.* being the loweſt Value put on the Land and Stock of *Barbadoes*, at 8 *per Cent.* which is the *legal Intereſt* of the Iſland at preſent. (See Calculates (1 A.) and (2 A.)	400,000	By Profits made on the Sales of its whole *annual Produce*, (as *per Calculation*, B.)	100,000
		By Ballance, annually againſt *Barbadoes*, according to the loweſt *Calculations*.	300,000
		L.	400,000

(D)

(D)

CALCULATE *of the yearly* Produce *and* Expence *of a Great* Barbadoes *Planter.*

Suppoſe the Planter poſſeſſed of, *viz.*	*l.*
1000 Acres of Land (with five Windmills and three or four Sugar-works) at 20*l. per* Acre	20,000
500 Negroes at 30 *l. per* Head	15,000
200 Head of Cattle for Work and Dung at 10 *l.*	2,000
40 Horſes for Work and Dung at 20 *l.*	800
20 Aſſes for Ditto at 40 *s.*	40
100 Sheep, at 20 s.	100
100 Hogs for Ditto, at 12 s.	60
	38,000
The Buildings, together with Coppers, Stills, Worm-Tubs, Coolers, Leaden Ciſterns, Wind-Mill Caſes, Braſſes, Pots, Drips, Waggons, Carts, and many other Plantation Utenſils, may coſt	12,000
All Appraiſed at	50,000

The yearly Produce.

	l.
Pots of Sugar (at 60 lb. weight each) 7,000, at 9 s.	3,150
Rum and Melaſſes.	1,050
	4,200

N. B. If the Sugar be improved by *Claying*, it is computed, ſuch an Eſtate will clear to the Planter 350 *l.* over-and-above the 1,000 *l.* as *per contra*: So that the moſt the Planter gains from his Eſtate, is 2 *l.* 14 *s. per Cent.* For 1000 *l.* on 50,000 *l.* (the Value of the Eſtate) is but 2 *l. per Cent.* and 1,350 *l.* no more than 2 *l.* 14 *s. per Cent. per Annum.*

The yearly Expence.

	l.
Salaries for Managers, Overſeers, Drivers, Workmen, Book-keepers, Town Agents, Doctors, Farriers, &c.	500
60 Barrels of Beef and Pork	100
60 Hogſheads of refuſe Fiſh (or Herrings)	300
Flour, Bread, and Bacon	50
Cloaths for 500 Negroes, at 6 *s.* per Head	150
Oats, Beans, and Corn	300
Lumber	200
Carpenters, Smiths, Maſons, Plumbers, Braſiers, Wheelwrights	150
Charges for the Militia	150
Repairs	120
Supply of Utenſils	180
Supply of Negroes	700
Ditto, of Cattle	120
Ditto, of Horſes	160
Ditto, of Aſſes	20
	3,200
Ballance remains to the Planter	1,000
	4,200

(E)

CALCULATE *of the* yearly Produce *and* Expence *of a* Great French Sugar Planter, *on rich and freſh Lands.*

Suppoſe this *French Planter* poſſeſſed of, *viz.*	*l.*
1000 Acres of Land; the Charges of taking it up, &c. we will ſay came to	150
200 Negroes, at 30 *l. per* Head	6,000
100 Head of Cattle (for Work and Breed) at 30 *s. per* Head	150
Horſes and Mules	200
Sheep, Hogs, &c. will more than anſwer the Charges of keeping by their Increaſe	
Buildings, Implements, and Utenſils of all Sorts	2,000
Firſt Coſt, in all	8,500

The yearly Produce.

	l.
Pounds of *Muſcovado Sugar* 420,000, at 8 *s. per* Hundred Weight	1,680
Gallons of Rum and Melaſſes 21,000 (which is 5 for every Hundred of Sugar) Rum at 8 *d.* Melaſſes at 4 *d. per* Gallon; the Medium at 6 *d. per* Gallon, comes to	525
	2,205

N. B. It appears from this *Calculate*, that the *French* Planter gains a Ballance of 1555 *l. per Annum*, by laying out 8,500 *l.* which is *Intereſt for his Money*, at the Rate of *l.* 18 5 10 Half Penny *per Cent. per Annum.* Formerly, when the *Engliſh* Planter had the like Advantages, &c. he gained 20 *l. per Cent.* and then could well afford to allow 15 *per Cent.* Intereſt.

The yearly Expence.

	l.
Salaries to Managers, &c.	150
Salt Proviſions, as Beef, Pork, Fiſh, or Herrings	160
Cloaths for 200 Negroes, at 10 *s. per* Head	100
Timber and Materials for Repairs	70
Workmanſhip	40
Supply of Utenſils	50
Negroes (nothing)	
Cattle (nothing)	
Horſes and Mules	40
Expences (that may be omitted)	40
	650
Ballance remaining to the Planter	1,555
	2,205

N. B. That *France* has tranſported her People to her Sugar Colonies, and given them a Year's Proviſions, and Land for nothing; that on *Hiſpanniola* Cattle are bought for 4, 5, or 6 Pieces of Eight; that Timber and freſh Proviſions, being raiſed on their own Lands, leſſens the Expence; that Negroes, not being over-work'd, they *increaſe*, rather than *decreaſe*, and ſo do the Cattle, &c. *Heavy Articles theſe againſt our Sugar Iſlands!*

THE APPENDIX.

LETTER I.

SIR,

AS the Preſervation of our *Sugar Trade* and *Colonies* is become the Subject of a Parliamentary Enquiry, and has, for ſeveral Seſſions paſt, taken up much of the Time and Attention of our worthy Legiſlators, I think it a Duty incumbent on every one, at this Juncture, to endeavour to ſet the whole Affair in a full and clear Light; becauſe the Wounds which our Sugar Colonies have received, have not been hitherto rightly ſearch'd to the Bottom. I have therefore ſent you my Opinion touching the *Sugar* Trade and Iſlands. And, I think,

1. That

1. That the Preſervation of our *Sugar* Trade and *Weſt-India* Iſlands, is abſolutely of the utmoſt Importance to *Great-Britain*.

2. That, from the firſt Eſtabliſhment of the Sugar Trade in the *Caribbee* Iſlands, to the Treaty of *Utrecht*, this Nation was moſt ſenſible of the Benefits and Advantages thereof, and was, from Time to Time, at very great Expences to ſecure the ſaid Trade to itſelf, and exclude and diſpoſſeſs the *French* from thoſe Iſlands.

3. That the true Intereſt of *Great-Britain*, in reſpect to the *Sugar* Trade, not being *rightly repreſented* to the Miniſtry at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, or not being *duly regarded* by them, a Foundation was thereby laid for the preſent exorbitant Growth and Augmentation of the *French* Power and Trade in thoſe Parts, which hath now rendered all the *Britiſh* Settlements in the *Weſt-Indies* precarious and uncertain, at leaſt; for I will not yet ſay untenable.

4. That at preſent, as it concerns the *Engliſh*, ſo it does the *Spaniſh* Nation as much, or more, that a Stop be put to the extraordinary Progreſs of the *French* Power and Trade in the *Weſt-Indies*; and that ſome Treaty be ſet on foot, by common Conſent, for regulating the Affairs of the *Weſt-Indies*, adjuſting every one's Pretenſions, and providing a reaſonable Security to all, by fixing a Balance of Power in thoſe Parts.

5. That the Iſlands which the *French* have poſſeſſed themſelves of in the *Weſt-Indies*, very much exceed, even beyond Compariſon, thoſe which are ſettled and cultivated by the *Engliſh*, in Extent and Goodneſs of Land, Number of Inhabitants, Conveniency of Ports and Harbours, Benefits of Situation, Diſcipline of their Forces, and Number and Strength of their Fortifications.

6. That from Extent of Land, Richneſs of Soil, and other natural Advantages, and political Encouragements, the *French*, of late Years, have been able to afford their Sugar, Rum, and Melaſſes, take one with another, at leſs than half the Price for which the *Engliſh* have, or can, afford theirs.

7. That much of the Cocoa, Cotton, Ginger, Indigo and Coffee, (the laſt of which, within theſe eight or ten Years, has flouriſhed to a Miracle in the *French* Iſlands) imported to *Great Britain* as the Growth and Production of our *Engliſh* Colonies, is purchaſed at firſt from the *French* by the Traders in our own Colonies.

8. That the *French Sugar Colonies* have even many Privileges and Advantages, in reſpect to their Government and Trade, which the *Engliſh* have not. To inſtance only one; the *French* admit of a *Spaniſh* Trade to and from their Iſlands, which we do not, whereby they have gain'd, and we have loſt, the *Spaniſh* Silver and Gold, which was formerly ſo plenty in our Iſlands, that great Remittances therein were made to *England*.

9. That the *Engliſh Sugar Colonies* have been, and are, under greater Hardſhips than any other of his Majeſty's Dominions; and the total Ignorance of the Chriſtian Religion in the Negroes, and their unavoidable Labour and ſtrict Uſage, is become more deplorable than in any other Government whatever.

10. That for any one to talk of our *Sugar Colonies* ſetting up for themſelves, and throwing off their Dependency on *Great Britain*, is more ridiculouſly abſurd, than to imagine the Iſle of *Wight*, *Guernſey*, *Jerſey*, and the little Iſlands in theſe Seas, are about to do the ſame thing.

11. That the *Preſervation*, *Encouragement*, *Peopling* and *Enlarging* our Colonies in the *Weſt-Indies*, would

would not only be of *direct Advantage* to this Nation; but alſo a Tie and an Inducement to her Colonies on the *American* Continent, to continue ſteadfaſt and loyal to the *Britiſh* Crown, by the Profits and Advantages they do at preſent, and may hereafter, in a greater Degree, find in their Trade to them. For it muſt be noted, and ought to be well remembered, that our *Weſt-India* Iſlands have the Labour and Slavery to produce Commodities; but that *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, and the *Northern Colonies*, carry on the whole Trade and Navigation, with their own Men and Shipping, and conſequently are as well the greateſt, as the eaſieſt, Gainers from them: Which is a Matter of very high Importance, and though perhaps has not been ſo much, or ſo well, taken Notice of, as it ought to be, certainly ſhould be both rightly conſidered and attended to. And,

12. That, ſhould *Great Britain* loſe her *Sugar Colonies*, or ſuffer them to *decline* and *dwindle* into *Nothing*; in ſuch Caſe, the Profits and Convenience of a Commerce to be allowed and eſtabliſhed between the *French* Sugar Colonies and our *Northern* Colonies, may be a prevailing Temptation hereafter (at ſome unlucky Conjuncture) for theſe *latter* to caſt off their Subjection to their Mother-Country; eſpecially ſhould they grow diſcontented, as they grow powerful.

13. *Spain* has her Mines of Gold and Silver, and all the rich Commodities of the fineſt Countries in *America*: *Portugal* has *Braſil*, a Colony profitable beyond Deſcription: The *Dutch* have their Poſſeſſions in the *Eaſt-Indies*, at the *Cape of Good Hope*, *Surinam*, *Barbicies* and *Eſſequebe* (beſides their Iſlands) in the *Weſt-Indies*: The *French* are extending their Commmerce and Settlements in all Parts: We, the *Engliſh*, had, and ſtill have, many valuable Trades; but ſeveral of them have been loſt,

loſt, or injudiciouſly, to ſay no worſe, given up. We have parted with *Amboina* and the *Spice* Trade in the *Eaſt-Indies*; with the *Cape of good Hope*; with *Surinam*; and if we neglect our *Sugar* Iſlands, we may ſoon become dependent on foreign Powers for every Commodity, of the Production of the Earth, that is peculiar to the Countries between the *Tropicks*, *which are known to be very many, and very valuable.* Thus we may be obliged to lay up much of our Shipping, and ſuffer our Sailors to ſhift for their Bread among other Nations, if we do not preſerve our *Southern* Colonies to employ them: Or, we may go a begging to other Nations for Permiſſions and Licenſes to trade to their Dominions, (as our *Northern* Colonies lately did to the *French* Iſlands) which, when obtained, may be on ſo hard Conditions, as we ſhall get nothing by it.

14. Every Nation of *Europe* is at preſent taken up with nothing more than *the ſecuring to itſelf* all the Benefits and Advantages of Trade and Navigation; and whatever Commerce we have with them, we begin to pay dear for. Our *Sugar Iſlands* are the only *Colonies* in the hot Climates that are poſſeſſed by *Great Britain.* If we loſe them, and be deſirous to maintain Trade and Navigation, we ſhall be deemed, and muſt become, the Pack-Aſſes (if I may uſe the Expreſſion) inſtead of the principal Navigators, Traders, and Merchants, of *Europe.*

It is preſumed, Sir, that all Men muſt aſſent to moſt of the foregoing *Concluſions*, and there are Facts and Reaſons to ſupport the other: But that you may ſee, at one View, the Inequality between the *Engliſh* and *French Sugar* Iſlands in the *Weſt-Indies*, and how neceſſary it is become, that an Equilibre or Balance of Power ſhould be thought on and fix'd in thoſe Parts, here follows a ſhort

Account

Account of them, more particular than is yet publiſh'd amongſt us.

Sugar Iſlands belonging to *Great Britain*, according to our Claim.

1 *Barbados*
2 *Tobago*
3 *St. Vincent*
4 *Santa Lucia*
5 *Dominica*
6 *Antigua*
7 *Montſerat*
8 *Nevis*
9 *St. Chriſtophers*
10 *Barbuda*
11 *Anguilla*
12 *Anegada*
13 *Turtola*
14 *Beef Iſland*
15 *Spaniſh Town*
16 *Santa Cruz*
17 *Crab Iſland*
18 *Jamaica*

Sugar Iſlands belonging to *France*, according to their own Maps, Charts, Claim, *&c.*

1 *La Martinique*
2 *La Deſirade*
3 *La Grande Terre*
4 *La Guadeloupe*
5 *Marie Galande*
6 *Les Saintes*
7 *La Dominique*
8 *St. Alouſie*
9 *St. Vincent*
10 *Becouya*
11 *Mouſtique*
12 *Cannaouan*
13 *L'Union*
14 *Cariouacou*
15 *Iſlet rond le Griſon*; and many other ſmall Iſlands near it.
16 *La Grenade*
17 *Samberero*
18 *St. Martin*
19 *St. Bartolamee*
20 *Santa Cruz*
21 *Tobago*
22 *Eſpagniole*
23 *La Tortue*
24 *Cayenne.*

Some of theſe Iſlands, you obſerve, Sir, are claimed both by the *Engliſh* and *French*; but it is certain the *French* have been making *their Title good*

good by taking Poſſeſſion of ſeveral of them, as *Santa Lucia*, *St. Vincent*, and *Dominica:* And we have been informed, that *France* has actually ſold the Iſland of *Santa Cruz* to the King of *Denmark*, for 250,000 Crowns; which is nothing ſtrange (if ſhe had a Right ſo to do) her Deſign, no doubt, being fully to *people Eſpagniole*, as well as *Martinique* and all the Iſlands under its Government; for that being once effectually done, all the Iſlands poſſeſſed by the other *Europeans* in that Neighbourhood, will become an eaſy Prey, whenever ſhe pleaſes to ſeize them: And, indeed, we have very ſmall Expectations from any of the Iſlands claimed by us, except *Jamaica*, *Barbados*, *Antigua*, *St. Chriſtophers*, *Nevis*, and *Montſerat*. So that what are the Hopes, Fears, and preſent Condition of theſe, all little Spots of Earth, but *Jamaica*, muſt ſurely be proper Matter of Enquiry; for we find that their Inhabitants are very uneaſy, grow fewer and fewer, and thoſe that can accompliſh it, remove to our *Colonies* on the *Continent*.

Whereas *Martinique* being the principal Seat of Government in the *French Caribbee* Iſlands, its Power, Situation and Importance, has not been enough conſidered by us in *England*; for it has many excellent Bays and Harbours all along its Coaſts; and *Fort Royal* infinitely exceeds any thing we have in thoſe Parts. This Iſland is very populous, and has upwards of 110,000 Negro Slaves on it; can muſter between 15,000 and 20,0000 white fighting Men, reſolute in the Defence and Service of their Colonies, as the *Engliſh* have ſeveral Times experienced. It is full of fruitful Vallies and fine Rivers; and, altho' mountainous, yet their Slaves do not rebel as in *Jamaica*, but are as good as any in the World; which muſt be attributed to the Wiſdom of their Laws, and the

Lenity

Lenity of their Government. And I have been assured by Persons well acquainted with this Island, that there are near 2000 Sailors * constantly employed in Sloops and other Vessels, all registered for coasting, or trading, among the adjacent Islands, *&c.*

All our *Caribbee Islands* have nothing like *this*, not to mention *Guade-Loupe*, *Grenade*, &c; and every one must have heard how much *Hispaniola* is more valuable than *Jamaica*, the Prosperity and flourishing Condition whereof, under the *French*, is as notorious as it is surprizing. *Cromwell* knew the vast Importance of this Island of *Hispaniola*, when *Venables* and *Pen* were sent to conquer it; so did King *William* and the *Spaniards*, when, in the Year 1695, Captain *Wilmot* was sent with a Squadron of Ships, and a Body of Land Forces, to act in Concert with the Governor of *St. Domingo*, against the *French*, unlawfully settled on it.

In short, in King *William*'s and Queen *Anne*'s Wars, it was seen, that our Possessions in the *West Indies* began to need the Protection and Care of the Government, and several Expeditions were made to destroy the *French* Power, and expel them from *those Islands*; but so it is, the *French* have got the better of us at last, and no effectual Remedy can be expected, but from the extraordinary Vigilance, Firmness, and Zeal of his Majesty and his Ministers, seconded by the Wisdom and Power of the whole *British* Legislature.

The Importance of this Subject, I hope, Sir, will excuse the Length of my Letter, which, I assure you, contains nothing but Truth, accord-

* I have been lately informed that *Martinique* has near 3000 Sailors at present, and that these Islands every Day increase and prosper.

ing to my beſt Informations. If you think it may be of any good Uſe to *Great Britain*, our *native Home*, diſpoſe of it as you pleaſe.

I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

Feb. 23, 1735-6.

A. B.

P. S. It appears from the Repreſentation of his Majeſty's Commiſſioners for Trade and Plantations laid before the Houſe of Lords, on the 13th of *February* laſt Year, that, in 1724, there were but 4812 white Men able to bear Arms in *Barbadoes*.

That, in the ſame Year, there were 3513 Men in all the *Leeward Iſlands*; but that they were ſince reduced to 3284.

And that, in the Year 1730, the Number of white Inhabitants in *Jamaica* did not exceed 7644 Perſons; and the Men able to bear Arms were computed at 3000.

So that, in all theſe Iſlands, there appear to be no more than 11,325 Men; thus,

Barbadoes		4812
Antigua	1400	
St. Chriſtophers	1200	
Nevis	300	
Montſerat	350	
Anguilla	85	
Spaniſh Town	78	
Turtola	100	
		3513
Jamaica		3000
Men in all the Iſlands		11325

A

A very ſmall Number to *manage* and *defend* them; and, what's worſe, we have had frequent Advices, that one of theſe Iſlands has had very many of its Inhabitants fled from it ſince the above Accounts were taken.

In the Year 1676, in Sir *Jonathan Atkins*'s Government, the Number of white Men in *Barbadoes* alone was computed 20,000 (beſides Women and Children, and 80,000 Negroes) which, even by the above Account, are reduced to 4812.

So, ſurely, theſe Matters require a ſtrict and powerful Examination; for otherwiſe it may happen, that a *Trade* computed to be worth * to *Great Britain* no leſs than One Million of Pounds Sterling *per Annum*, will be loſt, and that irretrieveable.

* You will pleaſe to remember, that till *England* had Colonies of our own, we gave four Times the Price for Sugars as at preſent, to which (or the Price we might be obliged now to give, had we not theſe Colonies) add the Profits by Manufactures, Trade, Navigation, Duties paid, *&c.* I believe you will find a Million too little rather than too much.

LETTER II.

SIR,

IT has been ſaid by a Gentleman of good Underſtanding, "That "no Commonwealth or Monar-"chy did ever arrive at a very "great Power, but by Methods "to be comprehended by the Un-"derſtandings of Men; and that we read of "no great Empire ruined, but the Seeds of its "Deſtruction may have been obſerved long be-"fore in the Courſe of its Hiſtory; there being "a certain Degree of Wiſdom, Induſtry, Virtue "and Courage, requiſite to advance a State, and "ſuch a Meaſure of Folly and ill Conduct neceſ-"ſary to pull it down".

We have a convincing Proof of the Truth of this Gentleman's Obſervation in the preſent and former reſpective Conditions of the *Britiſh* and *French Weſt-India Sugar* Colonies: For it is moſt certain, that the *Engliſh* were, at one Time, in Poſſeſſion of the much greater Part of the *Sugar* Trade, and that it was then in the Power of this Nation to have monopolized the Whole: But at length the *French* have got the Better of us, and the *Sugar Iſlands* they have poſſeſſed themſelves of, do very much, in many Reſpects, excel ours.

1*ſt*. *Among the Caribbee Iſlands*, (for at preſent we will conſider theſe ſeparate from *Jamaica* and *Hiſpaniola*) the *French* have more Harbours, Rivers, and Extent of Land than the *Engliſh*: for, in *Martinique* alone, they have ſeveral very good Harbours, as well as at leaſt one in each of the reſt of their Iſlands (*Marigalante* excepted); and in our Iſlands there are none (*Antiguà* excepted) — Then for Rivers; their Iſlands plentifully abound with them, which is a vaſt Advantage to them above our Iſlands, eſpecially in dry Years. —— And as to Land, their Iſlands being ſo much larger than ours, as that *Martinique* alone is as large as *Barbadoes*, *Antigua*, *St. Chriſtopher*'s, *Nevis* and *Montſerat*; beſides, their other Iſlands not only affording Land enough to their Planters and Slaves, but Room to ſettle new Plantations or Eſtates for their Children, which has occaſioned ſuch a great Increaſe of Inhabitants, as that in *Martinique* itſelf, there can be *ſpared* at any Time, for the King's Service, four or five thouſand Men for a Deſcent on any of their Neighbours.

2*dly*, Their Fortifications are larger, more regular, and kept in better Order and Repair, than thoſe in our Iſlands.

3*dly*, They have about fourteen or ſixteen Companies of the King's Forces in their Iſlands, much better taken Care of than ours in the *Leeward* Iſlands; they are lodged in their Fortifications, and their Officers dare not to ill uſe them.

4*thly*, Beſides the Officers of the above-mentioned Companies, they have ſeveral old Officers of the King's, with the Title of his Lieutenants, and they act as Lieutenents to the General, or as Lieutenant Generals on Occaſion. Theſe are placed in proper Places, far off the General, as at Fort *St. Pierre*, *La Trinitie*, *&c.* and ſo every where, as the General ſees proper: And the General

neral has a Guard of *Swiſs*, with their own Officers, at *Port Royal*. And,

5thly, Their Iſlands in general, eſpecially *Martinique*, being full of Vallies and Mountains, makes it naturally very ſtrong, by reaſon of the ſeveral Paſſes to be march'd through.

I have heard a credible Story of M. *Phelipeaux*, who was General of theſe Iſlands in the laſt Years of the Reign of *Lewis* XIV. *viz.* That being in Diſgrace at the Court of *France*, and looking on himſelf as under a State of Baniſhment, he had form'd a Project to caſt off the Dependency of theſe Iſlands, from the Crown of *France*, and to erect a Republican Government, much after the Model of that of *Venice*; and that he had prepared the chief Inhabitants for it; but that his Death, which did not happen without ſome Suſpicion of foul Play, from a *Phyſician* ſent from *France*, put an End to it. It was ſaid, this Project was found among his Papers after his Death; and I have ſeen the Heads of it. This I mention, only as a Proof of the Power and Strength of the *French Sugar* Iſlands at that Time; and it is certain, that, not long after the Death of M. *Phelipeaux*, the Inhabitants of *Martinique* broke out into open Rebellion, ſeized on their General and Intendant, and by Force ſent them both to *France*; and yet the Court thought proper to over-look it, with as good a Countenance as it could; for tho' it declared them Rebels, and obtained Orders from our Court, and others, that they ſhould have no Relief or Aſſiſtance, yet their Puniſhment was wink'd at; and the Court of *France* thought it neceſſary to eſtabliſh the *Swiſs* Guards in *Martinique*.

But let us attend. —— Nothing more, I think, demands the Attention of *Great Britain*. — How unhappily was her Intereſt at the *Treaty of Utrecht*, with

with reſpect to the *Caribbee* Iſlands, *over-look'd*, or *diſregarded!*

I would avoid every Party and Perſonal Reflection; —— I believe the Intereſt of *Great Britain*, with reſpect to theſe Iſlands, was not ſet before the Miniſtry and Parliament in any reaſonable Degree of Light, either at the Treaty of *Ryſwick*, the Treaty of *Gertruydenburgh*, or the Treaty of *Utrecht*.

But ſome will ſay, was not the *French* Part of the Iſland of St. *Chriſtopher*'s, yielded up to *Great Britain* by *France?* And is not that whole Iſland become our ſole Property by the Treaty of *Utrecht?* Yes, yes! There lay the Game! The *French* underſtood it —— we did not.

To explain what I mean (ſince Truth requires it) it is neceſſary to advance what, I fear, at firſt Sight, will look like a Paradox, viz. *That even this very Ceſſion of the* FRENCH *Part of the Iſland of St.* CHRISTOPHER'S *to us, was a Point that turn'd more in Favour of* FRANCE *than* GREAT BRITAIN; —— which I prove thus,

1*ſt*, *France* has for very many Years had two Things in View, one, the fully peopling *Martinique Guadelupe*, and the adjacent Iſlands in the *Caribbees*; the other the poſſeſſing herſelf of *Hiſpaniola*, and peopling that Iſland alſo with great Numbers of Inhabitants. Secondly, to remove all her Subjects off from the ſmaller Iſlands in thoſe Parts; ſuch as St. *Martin*'s, St. *Bartholomew*'s and *Santa Cruz*; and to ſettle them in the great Iſlands aforeſaid. But St. *Chriſtopher*'s being the firſt of her Settlements, ſhe found it no eaſy Matter to remove her Inhabitants from thence. They would not leave their old Habitations and Neighbours for new ones, being too well fix'd, notwithſtanding all the Temptations and Encouragements that were offer'd them. This Ceſſion, therefore,

therefore, of the *French* Part of St. *Chriſtopher*'s to *Great Britain*, exactly anſwer'd the Wiſhes and Deſigns of *France*, by furniſhing the aforeſaid Great Iſlands with ſuch a Number of ſeaſon'd and experienc'd Planters, who have been of excellent Service to ſtrengthen them, inſtruct the raw *European* Supplies of Inhabitants in the making of Sugar, *&c.* —— And the Wiſdom and Politicks of *France*, in looking towards Futurity, leaving the ſmall Iſlands to others, and poſſeſſing herſelf of the great ones, ſurely needs not be ſpoken to ——: We begin to be but too ſenſible of it; yet I hope not quite too late.

Further to confirm what I have ſaid in Relation to St. *Chriſtopher*'s, and at the ſame Time let you ſee by what Steadineſs and Application *France* is become ſo powerful in thoſe Iſlands; I will give you a Paſſage out of a *French* Hiſtorian that lived among theſe Iſlands, in the Infancy of their Settlement (by the *French* and *Engliſh*); who well underſtood, and has particularly related the Competitions and Struggles that were then between us. 'Tis Father *Tertre*, in his General Hiſtory of the *Antilles* Iſlands, where he reſided as a Miſſionary from the Court of *Rome*. He relates (in *Tom.* I. *p.* 146), That the *Sieur de Lonvilliers de Poincy*, Lieutenant General of the *French* Iſlands in *America*, did, in the Year 1639, make a Propoſal to the *Weſt-India* Company in *France*, to *ſell to the* Engliſh *all the* French *Lands in* St. Chriſtopher's, *and to tranſport himſelf with the Inhabitants, and their Slaves, to* Guadeloupe, *which he eſteemed the fineſt and moſt fruitful of all the* Caribbee Iſlands; and by making this the Capital of them all, and poſſeſſing himſelf of five or ſix other Iſlands in the Neighbourhood, he aſſured them of ſeveral Advantages, and that the *French* would thereby become *impregnable* and *invincible* in thoſe Parts; and this

Project

Project was thought at that Time to have been of the utmoſt Importance. For the Hiſtorian acquaints us, that M. *Renou*, who was then a Judge at St. *Chriſtopher*'s, and a Confident to *M. de Poincy*, mentioning this Project to M. *Fouquet*, in a Letter dated the 12th of *December* 1639, tells him, in ſhort, "That the only Way to make the "King's Name ring in thoſe Parts of the World, "and to make his Subjects live in Peace and "Safety, would be to ſeparate himſelf as ſoon "as poſſible from our neighbouring Enemies, and "to render ourſelves impregnable, and invinci-"ble, by the Poſſeſſion of five or ſix Iſlands that "are in a manner contiguous."

And pray, Sir, after all this, don't you think it as plain to be ſeen as the Sun, that at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, we took the very Bait the *French* had prepared for us, and thereby alſo took off all the Odium from the *French* Court? For the *French* Subjects at St. *Chriſtopher*'s, look'd on the *Engliſh* as the ſole Authors of all their Troubles, and the Cauſe of their Removal from their antient Habitations in that (to moſt of them) their native Iſland. In ſhort, by this Treaty of *Utrecht*, we did more for the *French*, than they could do for themſelves: We contented ourſelves with four or five ſmall Iſlands, for the Sake of a preſent Advantage which the *French* did not think worth their keeping —— How long we may be ſuffer'd to retain them, is now the hard Queſtion!

Perhaps it will be here ask'd, "How is it "poſſible, that the true State of our *Sugar* Co-"lonies has *hitherto* been ſo little, or not at all "underſtood in *England*; ſince great Stateſmen "have always taken Care not only to know the "exact Poſture of their own Dominions, but like-"wiſe to underſtand perfectly the Power or Weak-

" neſs of their Neighbours? —— I ſhall give " you the true Reaſons for this, Sir," — And,

1*ſt*, A Deſire in our *Sugar* Planters to preſerve their Credit, and not to be thought in ſuch bad Circumſtances, as, in good Truth, they really are, *is one.*

2*dly*, It is not the Buſineſs of our Governors (who go abroad to get as much Money, and as faſt as they can from the Inhabitants) to let all the World know, *That the poor People are ſent to Gaol to raiſe it for them, or oblig'd to fly from the Iſlands.*

3*dly*, When a Colony is reduced ſo very low, Diviſions enſue, and then the moſt unſociable and mercileſs of Men, prey on the Innocent, and thrive by publick Deſtruction ——— Theſe Men therefore, whatever they pretend, never, or very rarely, repreſent to the King, or his Miniſters, the true Condition and Circumſtances of the *Colonies* —— They buſy themſelves in the publick Diſorders; ——— They ſay too much, or too little; —— They diſguiſe the Truth; —— They live on the Calamity and Diſtreſs of others; —— And they cry out againſt it, but deſire it ſhould continue.

4*thly*, The Inhabitants of the *Britiſh Sugar* Colonies, have hitherto, or till very lately, entertain'd quite contrary Views to the *French* Sugar Planters. The *French* have been for extending their Settlements, and increaſing the Numbers of their People: The *Engliſh* have been deſirous only to make the moſt of the Lands they had already broke up and under Occupation. Hence the Proceedings and Encroachments of the *French*, have not been ſufficiently regarded, or complained of: Our Planters, till within theſe few Years, not apprehending the dangerous Condition they muſt needs be reduced to by the Growth of the *French* Power ſo near them; nor believing the Quantity

of

of *Sugar* they would make, could ſo greatly injure our Markets, as it is now found they have done. We have been intent only on the preſent Time; and I am ſorry to own a certain Truth, that is, that the *Engliſh* Planters have wanted a Share of that Publick Zeal, which the *French* give Proofs of on all Occaſions. —— There are many Inſtances to be given of this; but I ſhall only obſerve that it is from thence, that our *Sugar* Iſlands, I fear, have been backward in making the requiſite Addreſſes, Repreſentations, *&c.* to His Majeſty, the Board of Trade, *&c.*

5thly, It is the Cuſtom of *France* to appoint *able* and *experienced* Men to govern her Colonies, and they are paid by the King, and rewarded according to their Merits at the End of their Commiſſions: *Whereas I do not remember, that many of our* Engliſh *Governors have, at their Return, expected much for their good Services, whilſt honoured with his Majeſty's Commiſſion abroad.*

And, *6thly*, many that have been called on, and more that have officiouſly undertaken, to give true Accounts of our *Sugar Colonies*, and Trade, have been *frequently partial*, and *often*, *incapable* Perſons.

Having ſaid thus much on the *Caribbee Iſlands*, I proceed to *Hiſpaniola* and *Jamaica*. I ſhall only firſt add, that the *French Caribbee Iſlands* lie more contiguous than the *Britiſh*, and that they are all under one Government, *viz.* the General who reſides at *Fort Royal* in *Martinique*, which lying to Windward of *Guadeloupe*, is one great Reaſon it has been preferred to it, and the aforeſaid Project of M. *De Poincy*, on their firſt Settlement in theſe Iſlands, has beem improved for the better, and all the Ends anſwered that were propoſed thereby. Whereas our *Caribbee* Iſlands are not only ſmall and weak, but their Power is divided

into two Governments, at an inconvenient Diſtance from each other, in caſe of any Surpriſe or Attack from an Enemy, *&c.* —— But now, as to

Hiſpaniola: Every one that knows any thing of the *Weſt-Indies*, either by their own Experience, or from Books, Charts, Maps, *&c.* muſt be ſenſible, that this Iſland is ſo much preferable to *Jamaica*, as to Extent, Situation, Harbours, Wind, and in all other Reſpects, that it is needleſs to increaſe the Length of this Letter with the Compariſon. It is certain, that, in *Cromwell*'s Time, this Matter was well conſider'd, and that the *Engliſh* Forces were under the Neceſſity of contenting themſelves with *Jamaica*, after being repulſed from *Hiſpaniola*. It may be of more Uſe to *Great Britain* to inquire by what Ways and Means *France* poſſeſſed herſelf of this valuable Iſland; for few conſider any other Danger than that of *Jamaica*, tho' from the North End of *Hiſpaniola*, a Squadron of Ships, with People for a Deſcent, can be at *Georgia*, *Carolina*, *&c.* in a a few Days.

It is agreed, I think, by all, and particularly confirmed by *P. Tertre*, the *French* Hiſtorian, whom I have before quoted, that the *French* Settlements on *Hiſpaniola* were firſt begun by the *Buccaniers*, (that is to ſay) ſome *Engliſh* and *French* Men that ſettled themſelves on the Iſland of *Tortuga*, at the N. W. End of the Iſland of *Hiſpaniola*, who victualling themſelves to Sea with ſmoak-dry'd, inſtead of ſalted Meat, from thence had the Name of *Buccaniers*. As to the Government they were under, the ſame Author ſays, that the *Engliſh* had poſſeſſed the Iſland of *Tortuga* ſeveral Years, and did ſo increaſe there, that the *Spaniards* apprehended they might, in Time, attack *Hiſpaniola*, and therefore the *Spaniſh* General ſurpriſed them with an Army in 1638, put all to the Sword

that

that were in Arms, and hanged thoſe who ſurrendered after the Battle: But by Degrees the *Engliſh* re-poſſeſſed themſelves of it, and prevailing on ſome *French Buccaniers* to join them, they made in all 300 Men, commanded by an *Engliſhman*. And a *Buccanier* having informed M. *de Poincy*, General of the *French* Iſlands before ſpoken of, that there was a great Number of *French* among the *Engliſh*, and that the *Engliſh* Commander was only a Vagabond (ſays the Author) *Poincy* conceived it would be eaſy to make himſelf Maſter of that Iſland; and to that End he ſent one M. *la Vaſſeur*, with ſome Forces, who, in 1640, landed on *Tortuga*, and ſent to the *Engliſh* Governor to let him know, that if he did not retire with all the *Engliſh* in 24 Hours, he would give Quarters to none. Whereupon the *French* Inhabitants of the Iſland alſo took up Arms againſt the *Engliſh*; ſo that they embarked in Diſorder with their beſt Effects, and quitted the Iſland to the *French*, who ſeized what they left, with one Braſs and two Iron Cannon.

But the ſame Hiſtorian ſays, That ſome *French* Adventurers from the Iſland of *Tortuga*, *procured a Commiſſion from the* Engliſh *Governor of* Tortuga, and ſailed with 400 Men, and a *French* Frigate, to St. *Domingo*, where they landed and march'd to St. *Jago*, twenty Leagues through the Woods; and that they attack'd it by Break of Day, on *Good Friday* 1659, killed about thirty that oppoſed them, ſurpriſed the Governor, *&c.* ——— That this Enterpriſe was complain'd of by the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador to the *French* King, who anſwered, They had no Commiſſion from him; that the *Spaniards* might puniſh them as Pirates, or apply to the *Engliſh* for Redreſs, ſince they had a Commiſſion from them.

And

And here, Sir, you ſee there is much to be ſaid, but this Letter, I fear, is of too great Length already; I therefore ſhall end it in a very few Words, *viz.* That it is evident the Affairs of the *Weſt-Indies*, muſt be brought under a better Regulation than they have been for many Years paſt. Secondly, that the Parties principally intereſted in it, are the *Engliſh*, *French*, and *Spaniards*. Thirdly, the *Spaniards* are more concerned than the *Engliſh*, that a ſpeedy and final Stop be put to the *French* Encroachments in thoſe Parts. And Fourthly, if a Triple Treaty cannot be ſet on Foot between the ſaid Powers by common Conſent; —— We ought ſurely to examine into our Pretenſions, and not to depart from one Inch of them, on any Account.

I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

Mar. 28, 1736.

A. B.

LET-

LETTER III.

SIR,

IN what high Eſteem our Colonies were held at the Reſtoration, is evident from the Acts which were paſſed about that Time; a Time very inquiſitive; wherein all Matters relating to our Trade and Plantations were cloſely examined with Solidity and Penetration; moſt of our fundamental Laws and Regulations relating thereto, were then made and enacted; and the Principles and Reaſons which then governed, have ever ſince almoſt univerſally prevailed.

One of thoſe Laws, paſſed in 1660, ſets forth, " That your Majeſty's loyal and obedient Subjects, " the Lords and Commons in this preſent Par- " liament aſſembled, conſidering of how great " Concern and Importance it is, that the Colo- " nies and Plantations of this Kingdom in *Ame-* " *rica* be defended, protected, maintained and " kept up, and that all due and poſſible Encou- " ragement be given unto them; and that, not " only in regard, *great and conſiderable Dominions* " *and Countries have been thereby gained and added* " *to the Imperial Crown of this Realm*; but for " that *the Strength and Welfare of this Kingdom* " *do very much depend upon them*, in regard of " *the Employment of a very conſiderable Part of its* " *Ship-*

" *Shipping and Seamen*, and *of the Vent of very* " *great Quantities of its native Commodities and* " *Manufactures*, as alſo of *its Supply with ſeveral* " *conſiderable Commodities*, which *it was wont for-* " *merly to have only from Foreigners*, and at *far* " *dearer Rates.*"

And another Act for the Encouragement of Trade, made three or four Years afterwards, declares, that, " In regard his Majeſty's Planta- " tions beyond the Seas, are inhabited and peopled " by his Subjects of this his Kingdom of *England*, " for the maintaining a greater Correſpondence " and Kindneſs between them, and keeping them " in a firmer Dependance upon it, and rendering " them yet more beneficial and advantagious unto " it, in the farther Employment and Encreaſe " of *Engliſh* Shipping and Seamen, Vent of *En-* " *gliſh* Woollen and other Manufactures and Com- " modities, rendering the Navigation to and " from the ſame, more ſafe and cheap, and *mak-* " *ing this Kingdom a Staple, not only of the Com-* " *modities of the Plantations, but alſo of the Com-* " *modies of other Countries and Places, for the ſup-* " *plying of them*, &c."

Such was the Senſe of this Nation of the Advantages and Importance of our Plantations at the Reſtoration, when *its Eyes having been lately purged by Affliction, probably it might then ſee and diſtinguiſh as clearly as at any Time ſince*; eſpecially if we conſider the Things which followed, *viz. Luxury* and *Profuſeneſs* in the Court and Nation, the *firſt* and *ſecond Dutch* Wars, the *Plague* and *Fire* of *London*, *Plots* and *Diſorders of all Sorts*, *Arbitrary Government*, *Inſecurity in Matters of Trade, Property and Religion*, the Revolution, two *French* Wars for our *All*, and the Debts and ill Conſequences entailed on us: For *theſe Things may poſſibly have ſince obſcured or interrupted our Sight, as*

well

well as diverted our Attention from Matters of Trade and Plantations.

But although it ſhould be agreed in general, that our *Sugar Colonies* have been more advantageous to this Nation than any other belonging to it; yet perhaps we cannot have *juſt and practical Ideas* concerning them, without a competent and diſtinct Knowledge of the ſeveral Particulars from whence their Value and Importance do ariſe.

His Majeſty's Lords Commiſſioners of Trade, in their Repreſentation to the Right Honourable the Houſe of Lords of the 8th of *Febr.* 1734-5, report, that the annual Amount of the Imports from our Sugar Colonies (*as computed in the Cuſtom-Houſe-Books*) at a Medium of four Years, from *Chriſtmas* 1728, to *Chriſtmas* 1732, were as follows,

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
From *Jamaica* ——	539,499	18	03½
From *Barbadoes* ——	246,599	13	10½
From the *Leeward Iſlands*	642,269	09	06½
Total of the annual Imports (at a Medium) from all our Sugar Colonies into *Great Britain* ——	1,428,369	01	08
To which Sum of 1,428,369*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* muſt be added, the Sugar, Rum, Melaſſes, Cotton, Ginger, Piemento, Indigo, Aloes, Cacao, Coffee, Woods of divers Sorts, *&c.* exported from our *Sugar Colonies* into our *Northern Colonies*, *Ireland*, *&c.* which at a moderate Computation amount to 500,000*l. per Annum* ——	500,000	00	00
Total Sterling, —	1,928,369	01	08

So that the annual Produce of the *Britiſh* Sugar Colonies, over and above their own Conſumption, may be eſtimated at about One Million Nine Hundred Thouſand Pounds, according to this Calculation.

But if we reckon that theſe Colonies have produced not more than One Million Five Hundred Thouſand Pounds *per Ann.* (*communibus Annis*) from the Reſtoration; even this, is *One Hundred and Fourteen Millions of Pounds Sterling*; which has been a great Help to enrich this Kingdom, to make good our Balance in Trade with other Countries, and to ſupport us under the vaſt Weight of our Wars, Debts and Expences.

Our *Sugar Colony* Trade is not a *Foreign* Trade, a Trade with Strangers, altho' it be *Maritime:* It is rather of the *Domeſtick* Kind. In a Word, *This Trade has hitherto yielded us all the Profits and Advantages that uſually belong both to* the one, *and* the other, *free from the Fluctuations and Incommodities incident to the* former.

Nor would the Loſs be leſs to *Great Britain*, (were we ever to loſe our *Sugar Colonies* in *America*) *but greater*, than if they lay contiguous to our Coal or Tin Mines in *England*; becauſe of the Navigation, *&c.*

Whoever thinks otherwiſe, has not given himſelf Time thoroughly to conſider the Matter; for all that has been here ſaid, may be *fully proved* to every one's Conviction, by *undeniable Facts* and *Figures.*

And it muſt be reckoned a great Misfortune to this Nation, that her *Weſt-India* Affairs were not better underſtood at the Treaty of *Utrecht.*—We ſay *underſtood*; for we cannot find that either Party knew much of her *Intereſt* in regard to the *Sugar Colonies* at that Time: For the Gentlemen concerned in writing the *Britiſh Merchant*, which was a Cri-

a Critick on the Treaty of *Utrecht*, did not diſcover one Flaw in it as to this Trade. " Has " the *French* King (ſay they) taken ſuch Care to " render eaſy the Navigation of his Rivers? Has " he applied the greateſt of his Care for the en- " couraging Navigation alſo without? Has he " laid ſuch Impoſitions on Strangers Ships, diſ- " charging at the ſame Time thoſe of his own " Subjects? Has he been at the Charge of Con- " voys to ſecure the Navigation of his Subjects " againſt Pyrates? Has he created a Council of " Trade for the Increaſe and Encouragement of " Trade both within and without his Kingdom, " and alſo of Manufacturers? Has he employed " a Million of Livres yearly for the Settling of " Manufactures, and the Increaſe of Navigation? " And does the *Mercator* [a Paper publiſhed by " the Direction of the *then* Miniſtry] go on to " tell us, that *France* is uncapable of Trade and " Navigation? —— And after a great deal more, " ſay they, *Cape Breton is yielded to her*, which " will prove a perpetual Nurſery for Seamen." *Britiſh Merchant*, Vol. II. p. 256, 257. —— Yet not a Word of the *Sugar Colonies here, or elſewhere*, tho' ſo fair on Occaſion offered!

If therefore the Earl of *Halifax*, the Earl *Stanhope*, *Henry Martin*, Eſq; *Inſpector General* of the *Exports* and *Imports*, Sir *Charles Cooke*, Sir *Theodore Janſſen*, and other able and worthy Merchants concerned in writing the *Britiſh Merchant*, did overlook this great Affair; we hope our Letters will appear, at this Juncture, when all Nations are improving their Colonies, Manufactures and Commerce, the more ſeaſonable and neceſſary on this important Subject, and are,

Sir, Your very humble Servants,

Octob. 22, 1736.

The SUGAR PLANTERS.

LETTER IV.

SIR,

IN our laſt we computed that our *Sugar Colonies*, ſince the Reſtoration, have produced to the Value of *One Hundred and Fourteen Millions of Pounds Sterling*, and hinted that *theſe Colonies* are of *more* Importance to *Great Britain*, in reſpect of their Situation, than if they joined it: That they give Employment to a great Part of our Shipping and Seamen; that they create a Vent for our Native Commodities and Manufactures; and (which compleats the whole) they make this Kingdom a *Staple*, not only of the Commodities which they produce, but alſo of the Commodities of other Countries and Places for the ſupplying of them, *&c.* And, for our Guide in theſe Matters, we had our own Experience, the Cuſtom-Houſe-Books, and the repeated Senſe of the Legiſlative Power of the Nation at a right Seaſon, *viz.* at a Time of *Recollection and Fore-thought.*

Our *Sugar Colonies* take off annually about, *viz.*

	L.
From the *African* Traders in Negroes	240,000
From *Ireland* in Beef, Pork, Herrings, Butter, *&c.* ——— ——— ———	100,000

From

	L.
From our Northern Colonies in Horſes Lumber, Fiſh, Biſket, Flour, Corn, &c.	250,000
From the *Madeira* Traders in Wine	80,000
From *Great Britain* directly in Goods and Merchandize	400,000
And they pay in *Britain*, on their own Produce, about	
For Duty	200,000
For Freight	275,000
For Commiſſion, Brokerage, &c. to Factors, &c.	195,000
	1,740,000
And the Balance of their Produce [which Produce of late Years has been about 1,950,000 *l.* as nigh as we can calculate, which nearly agrees with our laſt, and might be more particularly illuſtrated] all Centers in *England*, being for Intereſt of Money, for Expences of Abſentees reſiding here, Education of Children, Governors and other Officers Salaries, &c.	210,000
	1,950,000

And whereas *Great Britain*, before ſhe was poſſeſſed of *theſe Colonies* in the *Weſt-Indies*, was wont to purchaſe, for her own Uſe, every Sort of their Productions from Foreigners (at much higher Prices than they have been ſince ſold for) to her great Diſadvantage; now theſe Colonies have not only ſupplied her with all thoſe Commodities *cheaper*, but alſo have made her a Magazine or Staple for them, whereby our Trade, Shipping, Riches and

and Publick Revenue, have been prodigiouſly increaſed.

The Trade wherewith theſe Colonies have enrich'd this Kingdom is immenſe; and there is not a Mine belonging to the Kingdom of *Spain*, or the Kingdom of *Portugal*, that has afforded, either of them, the like Emoluments and Advantages, which theſe *Sugar Colonies* have brought to *Great Britain*.

The Value of the yearly Tranſactions in the Circle of this Trade, may be computed as follows;

	L.
By the annual Produce of our Sugar Colonies	1,950,000
By their annual Expence and Charges	1,740,000
By Balance centering in *England* as above-mentioned	210,000
To which add,	
* By Sugar and other Productions of theſe Colonies re-exported	600,000
* By Returns made for the ſaid re-exported Goods	720,000
Total *L.*	5,220,000

Five Millions Two hundred and Twenty Thouſand Pounds. A vaſt Sum! and it is not eaſy to calculate how many Ships, Sailors, Merchants, Factors, Tradeſmen, Manufacturers and People of all Profeſſions and Denominations, are concerned in, and do ſubſiſt by, theſe great and diffuſive Tranſactions. Some have computed, that the annual trading Stock of Shipping from *Britain*, *Ireland*, and *North America*, imployed to *Africa*,

* *Great Britain* has of late loſt theſe benefical Articles, by the *French* and *Dutch* underſelling them, and for Want of giving her Planters Encouragement to produce their Commodities cheaper, and in greater Plenty, and permiting them as quick and eaſy a Vent for them at foreign Markets.

Africa, *Madeira* and the *Weſt-Indies*, hath amounted to 70,000 Tons; and that every Family in the *Weſt-Indies*, at an Average, gives Employment to Five Seamen, and to many more Artificers, Manufacturers, Tradeſmen, *&c.* and that every white Perſon there inhabiting, brings in 10*l.* *per* Head *per Annum* clear to the Benefit of the Navigation, Revenue and national Stock of *Great Britain*: Whereas it is computed, that every Perſon in this Kingdom, one with another in the Groſs, does not yield above a Twentieth Part of that Sum Profit to the Nation, beſides their own Maintenance.

It may therefore, we think, be very fairly concluded, that the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies* and Trade, are exceedingly beneficial to this *Nation*, and profitable to the Crown, and that their Preſervation and Encouragement, is of the higheſt Importance and Concernment to us.

1. Becauſe of the great Value and Extent of the Circle of Trade which theſe Colonies create, and are the ſole Source and Cauſe of.

2. Becauſe they encreaſe our Navigation, not only in ſo large, but alſo in ſo convenient and uſeful a Manner, the Voyage being neither too near home, nor too far off, every Ship performing it once or twice a Year; ſo that all the Sailors belonging to this Trade are conſtantly maintained by it, and yet in a Readineſs for the manning our Ships of War almoſt on any Occaſion.

3. Becauſe they formerly did, and might at preſent, take off many uſeleſs and neceſſitous People from *Britain* and *Ireland*; —— and in theſe Plantations ſuch Perſons have been, and ſtill might be, made of five Times more Value to their Mother Country, than they can poſſibly be to it, by any ſuitable Employment that is to be found for them at home.

4. Be-

4. Becauſe they ſupply us with all Sorts of their Productions ſo much cheaper than formerly, when ſuch Commodities were purchaſed from Foreigners.

5. Becauſe the Inhabitants of theſe Colonies, do ſtand in Need of all Utenſils and Neceſſaries for carrying on their Sugar Works, *&c.* and of moſt Things that they eat, drink, or wear; —— with which Things *Great Britain* doth, or might, ſupply them.

6. Becauſe the Productions of theſe Colonies are peculiar to them, in ſo far, as they are not to be had from any other of the *Britiſh* Dominions.

7. Becauſe theſe Colonies never did, nor ever can, in any Manner leſſen or interfere with the Produce, Manufactures, Trade or Navigation of *Great Britain*; whereas it is very well known, that ſome other of her Colonies do, or may, injure her in ſome, or all, theſe Matters.

8. Becauſe they give Being and Support to an infinite Number of Mechanicks, Manufacturers, Tradeſmen, Ship-builders, Supra-Cargoes, Factors, Merchants, *&c.*

9. Becauſe they afford a plentiful Proviſion for Governors and other Officers, and to Lawyers, Divines, Phyſicians, *&c.*

10. Becauſe they greatly augment the publick Revenue.

11. Becauſe all their Superlucration, or Gain, over and above their Expences, ever hath, and ever muſt, center in *Great Britain.*

12. Becauſe the Re-exportation of their Productions, hath helped us to make good our Balance in Trade with other Countries.

13. Becauſe of the real Value of their Buildings, Utenſils, Stock of Negroes, Cattle, *&c.* worth a great many Millions Sterling.

14. Becauſe, if we do not uphold our Sugar Trade and Plantations, this golden Prize will fall into the Scale of our powerful and moſt formidable Neighbour, which will turn the Balance of Trade, Navigation and Power in her Favour, beyond the Poſſibility, in our humble Opinion, of its ever being regained by us, though at the Expence of ever ſo much Blood and Treaſure.

15. And ſhould the white Inhabitants of theſe Colonies deſert them, nothing is more obvious, than that the *French* and *Spaniards* will, *ipſo Facto*, be Maſters of all the *Weſt-Indies*, and the Trade thereof. —— *A fatal, if not a finiſhing Stroke, to the Liberties of* Europe, *and the Navigation and Commerce of the World!*

We remain, as always,

SIR, Yours, &c.

Nov. 13. 1736.

The SUGAR PLANTERS.

PROPOSALS,

Preſented to a Great Miniſter of State *in the Year* 1736, *for the* Preſervation *and* Advancement *of the* Britiſh Sugar *Colonies and* Intereſts *in the* Weſt-Indies: *With an* Addition *of ſeveral* Notes *on the ſaid* Propoſals.

WHEREAS the *bad Circumſtances* of the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies*, and their *great Importance* to this Kingdom, are univerſally acknowledged; and the whole Nation, at preſent, appears very deſirous to have the Diſadvantages they complain of, removed by the *moſt ſpeedy* and *effectual Meaſures*, provided ſuch *Meaſures* do not tend to the Detriment of their Mother-Country *Britain:* And *whereas* it is conceived, that the *Remedies*, which have hitherto been propoſed for the Relief of theſe Colonies, are, not only *moſt of them improper*, but, even *all of them together*, *inadequate* to the *wiſh'd-for End:* It is therefore, Sir, with all Sorts of Submiſſion and Reſpect, that the following *Propoſals* are humbly offer'd to your mature Conſideration, by a Perſon of Application, and ſome great and long Experience

Experience in theſe Matters. He is vety ſenſible, however, that the forming juſt *Ideas* of the Nature of our *Weſt-India* Colonies, as they relate to the Good and Welfare of this Nation, and the Improvements they are capable of, requires a large Compaſs of Thought; and he fears that his Judgment may be too weak, and his Comprehenſion of Circumſtances and Things not ſufficiently extenſive for *ſo* GREAT A WORK: But if you, Sir, will be pleaſed to think that the Matter, which I am here going to preſent you, are worthy of your Notice and Correction, then all Defects of mine will be more than abundantly ſupplied.

SIR,

THE *Propoſals* which I now do myſelf the Honour to lay before you, relate,

Firſt, To the TRADE.

Secondly, to the GOVERNMENT, and,

Thirdly, to the SECURITY and DEFENCE of the BRITISH SUGAR Colonies and *Dominions* in the WEST-INDIES.

I. *As to* TRADE.

I *propoſe*,

1*ſt*. "*That* the Intereſt of Money, which at pre- "ſent is 10, or at leaſt 8 *per Cent. per. Ann.* in "all the *Sugar Colonies*, be reduced to $3\frac{1}{2}$ *per* "*Cent.*"

[*Notes.*] When the *Britiſh* Sugar Colonies were in *Proſperity*, the Planter might well afford to allow 10 *per Cent.* Intereſt; but ſince their *Decline*, nothing has ſo much contributed to their *Oppreſ-*

ſion and *Depopulation*: Yet this is a Matter that may be remedied to the Satisfaction of all; and there is not any thing that relates to theſe Colonies, which, in my Opinion, can add more Popularity and Applauſe to thoſe that ſhall perform it.

When I firſt drew up theſe Propoſals, I thought $3\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent.* might be ſufficient, becauſe the great Companies borrowed at 3 *per Cent*; but ſince then, and for the greater Encouragement of the Lenders, I propoſe, that the *Sugar Planters* allow 4 *per Cent*, and give ſatisfactory Security for double the Value, paying the Intereſt Half-yearly in *London*.

And thus the *Sugar Planters* would be enabled to pay off and diſcharge their Debts and Incumbrances of 10 and 8 *per Cent*.

2*dly*, Matters will be ſo ordered, that the Security for the Money ſhall be as good as in *England*, and the Intereſt as punctually paid in *London*.

3*dly*, Thoſe that lend, will encourage Trade and Induſtry; and for 1000 *l*. will have an Annuity of 40 *l*. *per Annum*, and ſo in Proportion for a greater or leſs Sum: Whereas they can have but 30 *l*. *per Annum* in the Stocks, and theſe Stocks not to be bought, but at an advanced Price. So that here is an immediate Advantage to the Lender of 25 *l*. in the Hundred at leaſt.

4*thly*, The Gentlemen that complain ſo much of having their Money out at 10 and 8 *per Cent*. will have it paid off.

2*dly*, " *That* the Negroes, Cattle, and neceſſary " Utenſils, ſhall not be ſeparated, or taken off " the Plantation or Eſtate to which they belong, " by Virtue of any Execution, or other legal " Proceſs, for the Satisfaction of Debts which " ſuch Eſtate may be ſubject to the Payment

" of:

" of: But that the Land, Negroes, Cattle, and " all neceſſ y Things belonging to it, ſhall be " preſerved *entire*, and ſequeſter'd into the Hands " of a proper Perſon to be managed for the Pay- " ment of its Debts. The Perſon or Perſons " to be choſen for that Purpoſe, by the Debtor " and Creditor jointly; and in Caſe of Diſpute " or Difference between them, the Court from " whence the Execution or Proceſs iſſues, to de- " cide it; and whilſt the Eſtate is working itſelf " out of Debt, the Owner to be allowed a Com- " petency for his own and Family's Subſiſtence, " in ſuch Degree and Meaſure, as the Circum- " ſtances of his Affairs will reaſonably admit of."

[*Notes.*] This Article will have ſome Oppoſers; but we have Reaſon and Precedent on our Side.

It is the Law and Practice of the *French*, in their *Sugar Colonies*, and conſonant to the Reaſon and Scope of our *Engliſh* Laws, which regard the publick Utility in the Execution of Juſtice, and do, or did, give Remedy and Satisfaction to the Creditor or Plaintiff, with as little Inconvenience as poſſible to the Borrower or Debtor: For our Books inform us, ' That by the Common Law ' one could have Execution only of Goods and ' Chattels, and of Corn, or other preſent Profit, ' that grow upon the Land, not of the Body, ' or future Profit of Land, till by Statute of ' *Weſt.* 2 *Chap.* xviii. 13 *Edw.* I. it was enacted, ' that he that recovereth a Debt, or Damage, ' or upon a Recognizance in the King's-Court, ' may, at his Election, have a *Fieri Facias* of the ' Goods and Chattels of the Debtor, (except Oxen ' and Beaſts of the Plough) and the Moiety of ' his Lands, by reaſonable Price and Extent, till ' the Debt is *levied:* And further, that this *Ap-* ' *praiſement* and *Extent* upon an *Elegit* muſt be

" found

‘ found by Inqueſt of twelve Men return'd of ‘ Record; and that the Goods are not to be ſold, ‘ but are to be delivered to the Party at a *rea-* ‘ *ſonable Price* and *Appraiſement*; that if the ‘ Party pays, and ſatisfies the Debt of Record, ‘ he ſhall enter into his Land; and that the Tenant ‘ of the Land may enter, when the Tenant, by ‘ the *Elegit*, is ſatisfied by the *Extent* or Receipt ‘ of the Profits, or Rents'.—Since therefore, the Wiſdom and Spirit of our *Laws*, and the Uſage of the *French*, in their *Sugar Colonies*, are ſuch, why ſhould a few Traders be gratified at the Expence of the Publick Good, the Deſtruction of the Planter, and Depopulation of the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies?* For it will be granted, that the levying an Execution, on a *Sugar Plantation*, worth 15 or 20,000 *l.* though it be but for the Satisfaction of 1000 *l.* as Matters now ſtand, will break it to pieces, ſo as to make it impoſſible to produce Sugar from it: Whereas, if ſuch an Eſtate were only ſequeſtred for the Payment of the Debt, it might produce 100, or, 150, or, 200 Hogſheads of Sugar *per Annum*, and diſcharge the Incumbrance, without ſuch intolerable Detriment to the *Planter* and the *Publick*.

3*dly*, “ *That* poor White People from *England*, “ *Scotland* and *Ireland*, be encouraged to re-people “ and ſtrengthen theſe Iſlands; and that the raiſ- “ ing of Proviſions, Cattle, Horſes, Cotton, “ Ginger, Indigo, Cocoa, Coffee, and other *Weſt-* “ *India* Commodities, be more encouraged than “ of late Years.

[*Notes.*] White People of Induſtry, being granted a competent Property for their Subſiſtence, are the true Strength of a Colony; for it is plain enough, that little can be hoped from the Negroes

in

in Caſe of an Invaſion, but much may be feared: *Barbadoes*, *Jamaica*, *All the Iſlands*, and particularly *Antigua* of late, are too ſenſible of this Truth. And in theſe Climates a white Man and his Family may live moſt comfortably (provided he be ſuffered to enjoy Liberty and Property) and lay up Money from fifteen or twenty Acres of Land: And this will be the Way to increaſe and multiply the various Commodities of the Growth and Produce of theſe Colonies, and be of great Benefit to the *Sugar Planters* in lowering the Price of Proviſions, Cattle, and many Neceſſaries of Life. The *French* and *Spaniards* have well obſerved this; and the *Engliſh* have as unaccountably neglected it; but, are now, I believe, thoroughly convinced of their Miſtake.

4*thly*, " That Care be taken to preſerve a ſuffi-
" cient Quantity of *hard Timber* (which cannot be
" had from our NORTHERN COLONIES) for the
" building and repairing of Mills, Houſes, *&c.*
" ſuch as *Green Heart*, *Bully* Tree, *Maſtick*,
" *Fuſtick*, *Purple Heart*, and the like; becauſe
" theſe Sorts of *Hard* Wood are abſolutely ne-
" ceſſary for the *Sugar Mills*; and we now do,
" or ſoon ſhall, lie at the Pleaſure and Diſcretion
" of the *French* and *Dutch* for it, who have ſuf-
" ficiently ſhewn what their Inclinations and Views
" are in this Point.

[*Notes.*] The *Dutch* have long ſince prohibited *Surinam*, *Eſſekebe* and *Berbicies* ſupplying us with Timber; and the Order is diſpenſed with at the two laſt Places, only, becauſe the *Dutch* Planters need our Horſes for their *Sugar* Works, without importing of which, we are not permitted to Trade: But if Care be not taken of the *Caribbee* Iſlands, which are unſettled, and the *Dutch* find it their Intereſt

tereſt to deny us hard Timber, pray, to what a Height will the Price of Timber riſe in *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward* Iſlands?

5*thly*, " That the Duties and Impoſitions on " *Sugar* and *Rum* be moderated, *when the Circum-* " *ſtances of the Nation will permit.*

[*Notes.*] I would here obſerve and inculcate to the utmoſt of my Power, That not only all poſſible Relief and Encouragement for the preſent be given to our *Sugar Colonies*, till they recover Strength; but alſo, that it will be ever beſt for the Crown, the Mother-Country, and the Colonies, ALL, to *gain and thrive together*; and, farther, that many *Littles* from a proſperous Trade will be found, *More*, and more advantageous to the Revenue, than *much* out of a *ſmall one*, and be of *longer Duration.*

6*thly*, " That Liberty be given to carry " from theſe Colonies, Sugars *directly* to all " the *European* Markets to the Southward of " Cape *Finiſterre*, provided *ſuch Liberty can be* " *granted without too many Inconveniencies.*

[*Notes.*] As to this Article; See, the *Preface to theſe Papers.*

7*thly*, " That Sugar, Mellaſſes, Rum, and " other foreign Commodities of the Growth of the " *Weſt-Indies*, be made contraband and prohibited " in all the Dominions and Territories belonging " to the *Britiſh* Crown, with a Power to his Ma- " jeſty's Ships of War to ſeize on the Seas, as " well as Cuſtom-Houſe Officers on the Land, " and in Port; for that, the Act made in the " Sixth Seſſion of Parliament, in the Reign of

" his

" his preſent Majeſty, for the *encouraging* and *ſe-*
" *curing* the *Sugar* Colonies, has hitherto been
" eluded and ineffective.

[*Notes.*] When a Law is made, it ought to be duly executed, and no Holes left to creep out at; otherwiſe Encouragement is thereby given to the *ſmugling* and *clandeſtine* Trader, and the Merchant, fair Dealer, the Crown, and the Nation will be prejudiced by it.—Yet I cannot too often repeat what I have delivered, as my Opinion, elſewhere; which is, that in the firſt Place, and before all Things, *Great Britain* take Care to raiſe and produce all Sorts of Commodities as *cheap* and *plentifully* in her own Colonies, as any other Nation can and will afford them to us: Otherwiſe, ſuch Reſtraints as theſe, may, in a little Time, be attended with more and greater Inconveniencies than there is Room to ſet forth in this Place.—However, I ſay, if all fitting Encouragements be given to the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies*, ſuch an Act, well obſerved, and ſtrictly executed, would be of infinite Service.—But, if we will not, *or do not*, take Care of our *Sugar Colonies*, pray let not *Great Britain* give up and deſtroy the *Sugar Trade* alſo, and all the Navigation and Advantage thereof, ſo well of late known to the *Dutch* and *Danes*.

8*thly*. " That ſome *one* or *more* of our *Sugar Iſlands*
" be made and declared a *Free-Port*, under pro-
" per Regulations and Reſtrictions; for which the
" *Dutch*, *Danes*, and (in part) the *French* have ſet
" us excellent Examples in the Iſlands belonging
" to them.

[*Notes.*] I would propoſe, that *Barbadoes* and *Jamaica* ſhould each of them have *one*, *ſuch Port*,

 where

where the Ships of any Nation in Amity with *Great Britain*, might touch for Wood, Water, Proviſions, and many of the Manufactures of *England* (to be particularly enumerated) paying for the ſame in Gold, Silver, precious Stones, Bills of Exchange, or ſuch Commodities (to be alſo particularly enumerated) as may promote the Trade, and not interfere with the true Intereſt of this great Nation.

9*thly*. " That a *new Office* be erected in every of " our Sugar Colonies for many good Purpoſes " hereafter to be mentioned: The Perſon ſup- " plying it to be appointed by Commiſſion " from his Majeſty, and to be ſtiled, or called, " by the Name of *Inſpector and Guardian of the* " *Manufactures and Trade of the Colony*; to be a " Member of his Majeſty's Council there, and to " have Precedency next after the Governor or " Commander in Chief; and to keep an exact " and regular Correſpondence with the *Lords of* " *Trade*, according to proper Inſtructions to be " given him; ſo as a Report of his Proceedings, " and a State of the Affairs committed to his " Care, may be made once a Year to his Ma- " jeſty in Council before the Meeting of the Par- " liament.

[*Notes.*] The *French* and *Spaniards*, *&c.* in the principal Ports of their Colonies, have Intendants, Councils of Commerce, or ſome Curators or Inſpectors of Trade: But ours is left entirely to the Governors, who are too often unexperienced in theſe Matters. For, I think, the Collectors, Cuſtom-Houſe Officers, *&c.* concern themſelves little in the Regulation and Advancement of Commerce and the National Gain.

10*thly*. " That

10*thly*. " That our Laws and Methods of Pro-
" ceeding in *maritime* Affairs be reviſed and re-
" formed; and the Judges of the Admiralty
" Courts be reſponſible Men of Character and
" Capacity.

[*Notes.*] What Sort of Gentlemen I have ſeen, in my Time, fill this Seat of Juſtice, the Honour of my Country forbids me to name.—But, ſurely, their Power is very great, the Proceedings moſt expenſive, and the Coſts and Charges commonly obſerved to fall on thoſe that are beſt able to pay: A vaſt Grievance to the Merchant, and an Encouragement to the very worſt of our Sailors.

II. *As to the* GOVERNMENT.

1*ſt*. " That the Governors of theſe Colonies be
" Men of Capacity and Morals, full of Zeal for
" the publick Good and Honour of their Maſter:
" And, that, on their Recal Home, they be well
" rewarded and ſuitably provided for.

2*dly*. " That their Salaries be *fixed* and *certain*,
" neither to be *diminiſhed* or *augmented* by the
" People or Aſſemblies.

3*dly*. " That their Behaviour and Conduct be
" ſtrictly enquired into, after the Determination of
" their Commiſſion; and that exemplary Juſtice
" be done, as by Honours and Rewards (before
" recommended) ſo, no leſs, by Diſgrace and
" Puniſhments, according to their Demerits.

4*thly*. " That neither Judges, or any military
" Officer, but under the Degree of a Captain,
" be removed or diſplaced but by the Governor
" and his Council, and they to give their Reaſons
" to his Majeſty and Council for it; of which

" the Perſon removed or diſplaced to have an
" authentick Copy, if he ſhall think fit to de-
" mand the ſame.

5*thly*. " That * * *

‘ oppreſſing Trade, is not only an Intereſt diſtinct
‘ from that of the Crown, but extreamly pre-
‘ judicial to it.

‘ The Trade of a Plantation is like a tender
‘ Plant, and ſhould be cheriſhed with the *fondeſt*
‘ *Care*; but if, inſtead of that, it meets with the
‘ *rough Hand of Oppreſſion*, it will ſoon die. The
‘ proper Nurſery for this Plant is a free Govern-
‘ ment, where the Laws are ſacred, Property
‘ ſecure, and Juſtice not only impartially, but ex-
‘ peditiouſly diſtributed. For to what Purpoſe
‘ ſhall the Merchant expoſe his Eſtate to the
‘ Dangers of the Sea, the Enemy, and many
‘ more Accidents, if, *after all, he can't ſave it at*
‘ *Home from Rapine and Violence?*

‘ As this is evident; ſo is it, that whatever
‘ Injures the Trade of the Plantations, muſt in
‘ Proportion affect *Great Britain*, the Source and
‘ Center of their Commerce, from whence they
‘ have their Manufactures; whither they make
‘ their Returns; and where all their Superlucra-
‘ tion is lodg'd. The Blow, then, may ſtrike the
‘ Colonies *firſt*, but it comes Home at *laſt*, and
‘ falls *heavieſt on ourſelves*.

‘ That Governors are apt to abuſe their Power,
‘ and grow rich by Oppreſſion, Experience ſhews
‘ us. We have ſeen, not many Years ſince,
‘ ſome Governors ſeized by the injur'd People,
‘ and ſent Priſoners to *Whitehall*, there to anſwer
‘ for their Offences. Others have fallen Victims
‘ on the Spot, not to the Fury of a Faction, or
‘ a Rabble; but to the Reſentment of the whole
‘ Body of the People, riſing as one Man to re-
‘ venge their Wrongs. Others, after being re-
‘ call'd, have been proſecuted at the *King's Bench-*
‘ *Bar*, purſuant to an Act of Parliament made
‘ in the Reign of the late King *William*, whereby
‘ it is provided, That Governors ſhall be im-

‘ pleadable

‘ pleadable at Home for any Injuries done in their
‘ Governments abroad. We have had more than
‘ one flagrant Inſtance of this very lately, where
‘ Governors have been convicted and cenſured,
‘ not ſo properly for oppreſſing, as for a direct
‘ plundering their People, and ſuch other Acts of
‘ Miſ-rule and lawleſs Power, as one would not
‘ have thought it poſſible they ſhould have com-
‘ mitted, if Experience had not ſhewn it to be
‘ more than poſſible.

‘ In thoſe Plantations, which never had any
‘ Charters, but are immediately dependent on the
‘ Crown, there Governors, in a manner, have the
‘ intire Legiſlative and Executive Powers, or, at
‘ leaſt, ſo great an Influence on the conſtituent
‘ Parts of the former, as leaves them little more
‘ than nominal Sharers, ſerving, rather, as Screens
‘ to the Governor, than a Defence to the People.
‘ The Militia is abſolutely veſted in the Gover-
‘ nors, which influences all Elections of Repre-
‘ ſentatives: They appoint Judges, Juſtices,
‘ Sheriffs, and other Civil Officers, with the Con-
‘ ſent, it's ſaid, indeed, of the Council; but that
‘ ſuch Conſent voluntary or involuntary will ever
‘ be refuſed, ſeems too much to be expected.

‘ I muſt farther obſerve, that where there are no
‘ Charters, there are Courts of Equity eſtabliſh'd,
‘ in which the Governor is always Chancellor,
‘ and, for the moſt part, Chief Juſtice, and Ordi-
‘ nary at the ſame time, *which puts the Eſtates,*
‘ *Lives and Liberties of the Inhabitants,* ſaving the
‘ Liberty of Appeal Home, *intirely in his Diſpoſal*;
‘ and even an Appeal in all Caſes under a con-
‘ ſiderable Sum, in all Caſes of the ordinary Juriſ-
‘ diction, and in all Caſes Capital, is either diſ-
‘ allowed by his Inſtructions, or wholly in the
‘ Governor's Breaſt to allow or not.

‘ The

‘ The Sum of my Argument (concludes this ‘ Gentleman) is, That the Benefit which *Great* ‘ *Britain* receives from her Plantations, ariſes ‘ from their Commerce: That Oppreſſion is the ‘ moſt oppoſite Thing in the World to Commerce, ‘ and the moſt deſtructive Enemy it can have: ‘ That Governors have, in all Times, and in all ‘ Countries, been too much inclined to oppreſs: ‘ And, conſequently, it cannot be the Intereſt of ‘ the Nation to increaſe their Power, and leſſen ‘ the Liberties of the People.—Burnt Houſes ‘ may riſe again out of their Aſhes, and even ‘ more beautiful than before; but 'tis to be fear'd ‘ that LIBERTY *once loſt, is loſt* FOR EVER!"—— Herewith I end theſe *Notes*, leaving the Reſt to be ſupplied by ſuch as are experienced in theſe Matters, and, who, *by carefully ſpeaking or writing uſeful Truths, will endeavour to deſerve well of their* KING *and* COUNTRY.

III. *As to the Security and Defence of theſe Colonies.*

1*ſt*. " That the 4½ *per Cent*. Duty payable in " *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward* Iſlands, be more " frugally collected and duly applied towards the " Fortifications and Defence of theſe Iſlands: Or, " that the ſame be taken away, and ſome *Equi-* " *valent* granted in Lieu thereof, that may be " more effectual, and leſs burthenſome.

2*dly*. " That Care be taken of the King's Sol- " diers, Militia, and Matroſſes, and that poor " People be encouraged and made eaſy.

3*dly*. " That the rebellious Negroes in *Ja-* " *maica* (if not to be reduced by War) be civi- " lized and made Friends by the Arts of Peace

" and

" and mild Government, which the ſooner at-
" tempted the better.

4*thly*. " That ſome Stop be put to the *French*
" Settlements on *Hiſpaniola*, St. *Lucia*, St. *Vincent*
" and *Dominico*.

5*thly*. " That the Fortifications in all the Iſlands,
" eſpecially in *Jamaica*, be forthwith repaired
" and enlarged: For, on one Hand, as its Situa-
" tion is very advantageous, ſo, on the other, it
" is the moſt expoſed to Danger that can be; it
" lying not far from the *Spaniſh* Continent, and
" within the very Jaws of *Hiſpaniola* and *Cuba*.

6*thly*. " That all the Iſlands in the *Weſt-Indies*
" belonging to *Great Britain*, and particularly the
" *Bahama*'s, be peopled, and a Fund to be ap-
" propriated or provided for that Purpoſe; but
" that, inſtead of entering on the Sugar Manu-
" factory, they be confined, at firſt, to Cotton,
" Ginger, and other Commodities; this being
" the Way to ſtrengthen us with People in the
" *Weſt-Indies*, *where*, for any Expedition, *one*
" *Perſon ſeaſoned to the Climate*, is as good as
" *three*, *directly from* Europe.

7*thly*. " That in Caſe of a War * * * *
" * * * * * * * * * * * * *
" * * * * * * * * * * * * *

SIR,

The foregoing are the Heads and Subſtance of the Meaſures which I do humbly propoſe may be purſued for the *Preſervation* and *Advancement* of the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies* and *Trade* in the *Weſt-Indies*.

If I have ſtarted ſome Points entirely new and unthought of by others; If I ſlight common Talk and vulgar Opinions; if I prefer the National Good to the private Views of ſelf-intereſted

and

and deſigning Men: 'Tis not out of Affectation or Vanity; but, becauſe, *Truth, the Courſe of the Trade of this Kingdom, the Evils to be remedied,* and *the exorbitant Growth of our Neighbours in the* WEST-INDIES do, in my Judgment, *require*, indiſpenſibly *require*, that I ſhould do ſo.

Theſe Propoſals, Sir, are to be ſupported by Reaſons taken from their Expediency, their Uſefulneſs, their Efficacy, the ſucceſsful Practice of foreign Nations in the like Caſes, the preſent Circumſtances of our Commerce and national Affairs, and the Facility wherewith they may be carried into Execution, *&c.*

I am, *SIR*,

With all Sorts of Reſpect,

Your moſt, &c.

December 30, 1736.

J. B.

FINIS.

c 4 k.

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